

## Algeria to celebrate Diplomacy Day

PARIS (R) — Algeria decreed Oct. 8 as a national diplomacy day to celebrate the country's diplomacy principles, the official Algerian news agency APS said on Saturday. "Algeria was the pioneer country to claim a more fair and more balanced international economic relationship to help ensure an economic takeoff in the (non-industrialised) countries," said APS summing up the principles of the country's diplomacy. The north African country built its diplomacy since independence from French rule 34 years ago by first forging closer links with neighbouring countries in the Maghreb, then with the Arab World, with Muslim nations, Mediterranean Europe and then other countries. Algeria is current chairman of the Maghreb Arab Union set up in 1989 with Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia and Libya.

# Jordan Times

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## Cabinet approves Japanese loan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers on Saturday approved a Japanese grant to the Kingdom to purchase appliances worth \$373,000 for the Department of Antiquities. The Cabinet, meeting under the chairmanship of Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Higher Education Abdullah Ensour, approved the appointment of Abdul Latif Babaw as Jordan's ambassador to Switzerland.

## Shamir says he is fine

TEL AVIV (AP) — Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's former prime minister, said Saturday he was feeling fine, and denied that low blood pressure caused him to collapse during a visit to Paris. Interviewed on Israel's army radio, Mr. Shamir did not say what ailed him. But aides blamed a tight schedule that caused the 81-year-old Israeli to miss his regular afternoon siesta, the radio said. Joking and laughing, Mr. Shamir said reports of a loss of blood pressure were "nonsense. No such thing happened." He said he read in the newspapers that his condition was unstable. "I think my situation is very stable," he said. He added that he was feeling "absolutely normal — politically too." Mr. Shamir, of the right-wing Likud party, was prime minister for nine years until he lost an election to the centrist Yitzhak Rabin in 1992. From politics, he is touring Europe on a fund-raising tour for forestry and construction projects in Israel.

## Oman, India sign security agreement

MUSCAT (AP) — Oman and India signed a security agreement on Saturday to exchange information on terrorism and organised crime, the official Oman news agency said. The agreement, which was signed by Oman's Interior Minister Bader Bin Saoud Bin Hareb and his Indian counterpart Mohammed Maqbool Dar, also stipulates coordination in crimes involving fraud and embezzlement. The two countries also signed agreements in the agricultural and scientific sectors.

## Strike ends at one Turkish jail

ANKARA (AP) — Inmates ended a five-day protest of conditions in a northwestern prison Saturday, but thousands of prisoners are pressing ahead with a hunger strike, a human rights official said. Eighty-five inmates who set up barricades at Canakkale prison agreed to halt their action when authorities consented to allow group visits between women and men prisoners once a week and supervised private meetings twice weekly. Erol Anar of the independent Human Rights Association said. Meanwhile, a hunger strike by thousands of prisoners in jails across the country entered into its sixth day Saturday. Inmates launched the strike to warn the government to stick to promises made at the end of a hunger strike in July that left 12 prisoners dead. The strikes follow riots at Diyarbakir prison last week in which 10 inmates protesting the transfer to prisoners to other jails, were killed in clashes with security officials.

# Palestinians, Israelis open crucial talks today

Massive show of support for Arafat upon return from Washington summit and talks with Arab, European leaders

## Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELIS AND Palestinians prepared on Saturday for a resumption in talks interrupted by a wave of violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that threatened their delicate peace deal.

Some 3,000 Palestinians welcomed Yasser Arafat home on the eve of a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the talks that could decide the fate of the battered Mideast peace effort.

The crowd lined the road from the Egyptian border waving Palestinian flags as Mr. Arafat drove into the Gaza Strip from Egypt, last stop on a tour that took the Palestinian leader to Mideast capitals, Europe and his Washington summit with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

It was an impressive show of support for Mr. Arafat as the Palestinians head into Sunday's talks.

Asked about the chance for progress in the talks with Israel on Sunday, which officials said would begin at 6 p.m. (1600 GMT), Mr. Arafat said: "We have to wait and see."

"We are not asking for the moon and we gave a new chance for peace," he told reporters outside his Gaza office.

Mr. Arafat arrived from Egypt after stops in Morocco, Tunisia, France and Italy. He was scheduled to brief members of his Palestinian National Authority (PNA) later on results of the summit U.S. President Bill Clinton convened to save Middle East peace talks.

In Cairo, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa warned that the Middle East would be thrown into a crisis if Israel does not change its hardline stance in talks with the Palestinians.

"Pessimism is the prevailing feeling in the area. The Washington talks, the decision to resume negotiations, the presence of the American side...all that behoves the Israelis to move and change their negative posture," Mr. Musa told reporters after Mr. Arafat met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"If not then it will be indeed be a very, very serious situation," he said. The U.S.-sponsored peace process faced its biggest threat yet as violence erupted in the West Bank and Gaza last week when Israel opened a second entrance to an archaeological tunnel in Arab East Jerusalem. Clashes between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian police and civilians killed more than 70 people.

Israeli hardliners hailed Mr. Netanyahu for refusing to give Mr. Arafat concessions at the summit on the tunnel issue or set a date for Israel's promised redeployment of troops in Hebron.

The talks will be conducted at the Erez Crossing between Israel and Gaza by members of an Israeli-Palestinian steering committee and mediated by U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross. Officials said Mr. Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu would not take



A Palestinian girl peers through a window of her house to watch hundreds of Jewish settlers march in the streets of Hebron after a curfew came into effect in the West Bank town on Saturday (Reuters photo)

(Continued on page 7)

## Israeli warplanes bomb S. Lebanon targets

NABATTYEH (R) — Israeli warplanes rocketed suspected guerrilla targets in South Lebanon hills on Saturday hours after an Israeli-backed militia patrol was ambushed, security sources said. They said the jets fired at least four rockets into Louwaizeh hills in Iqlim Al Toufah ridge, used by pro-Iranian Hezbollah guerrillas to attack Israeli troops and their militia allies occupying a South Lebanon border zone. The sources had said hours earlier that a South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiaman was killed when his patrol came under guerrilla fire near the village of Markaba in occupation zone. "The initial report from the patrol said that one member was killed in the ambush but later it turned out that he was only unconscious," one SLA source said. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

## Crown Prince phones King and Mubarak

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Saturday contacted His Majesty King Hussein in Washington, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The agency did not elaborate.

Petra said the Regent also contacted Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and discussed with him Arab coordination to ensure the success of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks that resume today at the Erez crossing point between Israel and the Gaza Strip under an agreement reached at last week's Washington summit.

The Washington summit, hosted by U.S. President Bill Clinton, was attended by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as well as King Hussein.

In Saturday's telephone conversation, the Regent and President Mubarak, who stayed away from the summit although he was invited, emphasised the need for concrete progress in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and the implementation of all agreements signed by the Palestinians and Israel, Petra said.

King Hussein remained in Washington after the conclusion of the summit to discuss Jordanian-American relations with senior Clinton administration officials, including Defence Secretary William Perry and others.

Meanwhile, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk, paid tribute to the role played by King Hussein at the Washington summit to convince Mr. Netanyahu to stay committed to the peace process. In an interview with BBC Television, Mr. Indyk also described the talks Mr. Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu held in Washington as a good point and convinced the Israeli prime minister that the Palestinian leader was indeed a partner in peace and that the Palestinian demands had to be addressed.

Hanan Ashrawi, a minister in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) cabinet headed by Mr. Arafat, also paid tribute to Jordan.

In an interview with Jordan Television, Ms. Ashrawi said Jordan and Palestine were in the "same trench" and that relations between the two sides could not be separated because "we are one people, with the same vision and common interests."

Ms. Ashrawi said intense contacts took place between King Hussein and President Arafat last week and the King emphasised that Jordan would continue diplomatic and political moves to resolve the problems facing the peace process.

# France presses EU to secure active role in Middle East peace process

DUBLIN (AP) — France pressed the European Union (EU) on Saturday to take a seat at the Israel-Palestinian talks resuming Sunday at the Israeli-Gaza border crossing at Erez.

French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette raised the issue in talks with his 14 EU counterparts in Dublin. Officials said the EU was consulting with the United States.

The French proposal underscored growing irritation in Western Europe at being sidelined in the Mideast peace process through the EU is the biggest aid donor to the Palestinians.

"It is clear that we have to work with the Americans,"

said Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van Mierlo. But he added the EU was eager to be represented at Sunday's talks to match the American presence.

U.S. Ambassador Dennis Ross was to attend the Israel-Palestinian talks, which grew out of the mid-week summit in Washington between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader. That summit followed an outbreak of violence in the Gaza and on the West Bank that left scores of people dead.

Palestine leader Yasser Arafat met with French President Jacques Chirac in Paris on Friday and suggested that the Europeans

take a seat at the negotiating table Sunday. The EU foreign ministers discussed the Middle East

## EU plans to send Spring; special envoy to seek role in peace talks

IRISH PRIME Minister John Bruton said on Saturday that the European Union (EU) will send Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring to the Middle East within the next week to meet both Palestinians and Israelis.

"EU leaders meeting in Dublin also agreed to appoint a special envoy to try to help rebuild the Middle East peace process, shaken by renewed violence."

Mr. Bruton said Mr. Spring would "convey the strongly-held views of all member countries of the European Union of the need to accelerate the peace process."

He said Mr. Spring would go to the Middle East "at the earliest possible time in the coming week."

in the margins of a one-day EU summit designed to speed up debate about

(Continued on page 7)

# Strength will not bring security, Mubarak tells Israel on eve of 1973 war anniversary

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak on Saturday used the anniversary of Egypt's last war with Israel to implicitly criticise current Israeli policies, saying only peace can bring security to the Middle East, not brute strength.

Mr. Mubarak's comments, marking 23 years since the start of the 1973 Middle East war, come during renewed tensions between Arabs and Israel over the hardline stances of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in peace negotiations.

Last week, Mr. Netanyahu's decision to open an archaeological tunnel near Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque — set off violence that left more than 70 Palestinians and Israelis dead.

In his speech on Saturday, broadcast on Egypt TV, Mr. Mubarak said the

Egyptian army's storming of Israeli troops holding the Suez canal in the 1973 war destroyed the illusion that Israel's army was undefeatable.

"The arrogance of power and false claims were shattered and everyone saw that strength, no matter how great, cannot alone achieve complete security," Mr. Mubarak said.

"The sure way to achieve security and stability is just and comprehensive peace which gives every person his rights and ends injustice," he added.

In Oct. 6, 1973, attack, the Egyptian army took Israeli forces by surprise and crossed the Suez Canal, which Israel had held since capturing Egypt's Sinai peninsula in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The Egyptians were later pushed back, but Arabs feel the initial victory erased the shame of the 1967 defeat

and allowed Egypt to move towards peace.

It became the first Arab state to make peace with Israel in a 1979 treaty and has since become a chief mediator between the Jewish state and other Arabs. Mr. Mubarak never mentioned Mr. Netanyahu by name, but his comments follow his repeated theme that the new Israeli government's failure to implement peace accords with the Palestinians threatens to dismantle the whole Mideast peace process.

He noted that Israel's agreement to withdraw from every inch of the Sinai peninsula in peace negotiations led to a fair peace, a reminder of the Arab view that Israel must cede all occupied Arab land if it wants total peace.

(Continued on page 7)

# Regent assures Bani Hamideh tribes of all efforts on socio-economic front

AMMAN (J. T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, was accorded an enthusiastic welcome upon a visit he paid to the Bani Hamideh tribes near Madaba on Saturday.

Tribal leaders delivered speeches, at a rally which was organised to welcome the Regent, expressing their allegiance to the Hashemite Throne and their support for His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to unify Arab ranks and protect Islamic holy places.

In an address to the rally, Prince Hassan stressed that the leadership was doing all in its power to create a better life for Jordanians and improve their social and economic conditions.

Referring to projects in the Bani Hamideh region, Prince Hassan said work was continuing on the completion of the Waleh and the Mujib dams so that the region could have sufficient water and agricultural production can flourish in a healthy environment. Referring to requests and

demands made to the government by local inhabitants, the Regent said no injustice could come to Jordanians living in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan under the Hashemite rule.

"Any request, be it small or big, will be considered," he said, adding that the government would ensure that these requests would be met in the course of achieving balanced development in the central regions of the Kingdom.

# Iraq is ready to grant self-rule to Kurdish north, Sahaf says

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq is prepared to grant self-rule to Kurdish areas in the north of the country, Foreign Minister Mohammed Al Sahaf was quoted as saying on Saturday.

He told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) that Iraqi authorities were about to conclude a self-rule deal with the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of Massoud Barzani, but gave no details.

The Iraqi minister's remarks were carried by the BBC's Arabic service radio and monitored in Nicosia, Cyprus. There was no comment immediately available from the KDP on the report.

Mr. Sahaf's comments came more than a month after President Saddam Hussein sent his army into Iraq's Kurdish north to support Mr. Barzani's KDP against a rival faction, the Patriotic Union of Kurdis-

tan (PUK) led by Jalal Talabani.

The KDP routed the PUK and is now in virtually total control of Iraq's Kurdish north, giving Baghdad influence in the area for the first time since 1991, when it was declared a safe-haven to protect its inhabitants from reprisals by Iraq's army.

Mr. Barzani has repeatedly stated since his victory over the PUK that his alliance with Baghdad was over and that he had no plans to sign any political accords with the Iraqi regime.

Iraq's army withdrew from the north soon after Mr. Barzani's triumph and the KDP leader has since been keen to stress that he had no choice but to ask for the central government's help after similar requests made to Washington were ignored.

He charges that Mr. Talabani's PUK was becoming too closely linked with Iran, giving Iraq's neighbour a foothold in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The KDP and PUK also have a history of differences and armed conflict, mainly over what policies to pursue towards the Baghdad government and the distribution of the area's limited revenues.

Baghdad's Aug. 31 intervention in northern Iraq was punished by U.S. missile strikes on Sept. 3 and 4 and the extension of a no-fly zone in southern Iraq that has been in place since 1991.

Like the one over southern Iraq, a no-fly zone over Kurdish areas has been in place for more than five years and is enforced by U.S., British and French warplanes.



## EU 'troika' plans visit that could be challenge to Israel

DUBLIN (R) — The European Union (EU), sidelined by Washington in the quest for Middle East peace, plans a potentially controversial trip to Israel and the Palestinian territories in the next 10 days, EU diplomats said on Saturday.

They said a fact-finding "troika" of EU ministers had pencilled in the middle of October to meet Palestinian leaders in their Orient House offices in East Jerusalem.

The Israeli government has already signalled that it would strongly disapprove of any visit by the EU troika to Orient House, which it would see as backing for Palestinian claims to the Holy City.

It has raised the possibility that it would not meet the troika — made up of ministers from Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands, the current, past and next EU presidents, and a European commissioner — if it went to the Orient House.

"It's not inconceivable that the troika would go to the Orient House and not hold talks with the Israelis. We'll just have to see," said one EU diplomat close to the discussions.

"But the middle of the month, Oct. 15 to 18, is the sort of date we are looking at. There is some urgency," he added.

A firm date for the visit was expected to be discussed later on Saturday when EU leaders have a working dinner at the end of their one-day Dublin informal summit, the diplomats said.

The leaders of France and Italy are pressing the summit to reaffirm Europe's desire to play a role in resolving the Middle East peace process, which has been dominated by the mediation efforts of

U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration.

"There are one or two delegations at the summit who very keenly want the EU to be involved in this process," said one EU diplomat. "I expect they will make their views known."

EU leaders are disappointed that Mr. Clinton's mediation has failed to make headway towards defusing the current Middle East crisis in which scores of people have been killed.

Mr. Arafat held separate talks on Friday with Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi and French President Jacques Chirac to press for EU involvement and brief them on his Washington talks this week with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Afterwards he called for a European presence in talks between Palestinians and Israeli officials starting on Sunday.

The EU agreed in July that the Orient House should be the venue for talks with leaders of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) but was told by Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy that the body no longer held official meetings there.

EU foreign ministers said last month that they would seek clarification of the Israeli claim from the PNA and were told that the Orient House was still being used by Palestinians as a political office.

The EU troika will be led by Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring, who paid a visit to Palestine Liberation Organisation officials at the Orient House in 1995 and was promptly snubbed by the Israeli president, who cancelled planned talks.

## Lebanese opposition, media plan protest

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese opposition politicians, unionists and media workers have called for a protest against a law slashing the number of private television and radio stations and what they said were worsening living conditions.

Opposition and media representatives, led by the General Labour Confederation (CGTL), on Friday night decided to stage a protest sit-in in front of the ministerial palace in Beirut next Wednesday as the cabinet held its weekly session there.

"The suppression of media and public freedoms is concurrent with increasing economic and social pressures," a committee grouping the opposition representatives

said in a statement after the meeting. It was published by newspapers on Saturday.

Hundreds of media workers, opposition politicians and unionists defied an official ban on demonstrations and briefly marched in Beirut on Thursday to protest the slashing of the number of private television and radio stations.

The protesters marched after they were barred by police from staging a planned sit-in outside the ministerial palace.

Demonstrations are banned under a three-year old government decision. Last February, Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri called in the army which imposed a nationwide curfew to stop planned street protests called by the labour unions.



Fighters of Afghanistan's Taliban militia drive in the direction of the Panjsher Valley in northeastern Afghanistan on Saturday (Reuters photo)

## Ben Laden under Taliban 'protection' — paper

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabian dissident Osama Bin Laden, named by the United States as a key sponsor of extremism, is in Afghanistan under the protection of the hardline Taliban, an Arabic-language daily said on Saturday.

The London-based Al-Hayat said sources close to the Taliban movement, which controls two-thirds of Afghanistan, reported

that the millionaire businessman was near the city of Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan.

"The Arab businessman Osama Ben Laden is still present in the region close to Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan under the protection of the Taliban movement," it reported.

"(The sources) said Osama Ben Laden enjoyed firm and excellent relations

with the leadership of the Taliban since before (the movement) entered Jalalabad and Kabul," it said.

The U.S. State department recently called Ben Laden "one of the most significant financial sponsors of Islamic extremist activities in the world today."

Bin Laden has called for a holy war against American troops in the Gulf region, an Arabic-language

newspaper reported in August. The Taliban, which overran the capital Kabul a week ago, are enforcing a strict Islamic code in the areas under their control. The group has issued decrees placing strict limitations on the activities of women, banning western dress, card-playing and vowing harsh punishment for those found drinking alcohol.

## Australian tells of hard ordeal in Somali prison

NAIROBI (R) — An Australian pilot freed after 131 days in a Somali jail said on Saturday he was held short of water in a tiny, windowless cell for up to 22 hours a day.

Justin Fraser, 24, was freed in the southwestern town of Baidoa on Thursday after Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi intervened and asked faction leader Hussein Aideded, who heads a self-declared government, to release him.

"I was locked in a room approximately the size of a shipping crate, a windowless room. I had nothing," Mr. Fraser told a Nairobi news conference, adding he only got a blanket after two weeks.

"It was difficult, very hard...after a few days they gave me a plastic sleeping mat...and that was it. Generally speaking I was locked in for 21, 22 hours a day," the Australian said.

"When you're in there, it's very hard because you're dying of thirst, you're really thirsty, and they won't give you a water bottle and you can't drink

too much when you are outside because you have nothing (inside) to use as a toilet," he said.

Mr. Fraser, pale, thin and still shocked, then stopped for a few minutes to pull himself together. His mother, Pauline, Dickson who campaigned for his release, left the room in tears.

He lost 16 kilograms in 131 days in captivity after being forced by mechanical problems to land his plane in the western Somali town of Huddur after flying in a load of gat, a mild narcotic plant chewed by Somalis and grown in Kenya.

Mr. Fraser was sentenced to 25 years in jail for flying without clearance and entering Somalia without an Aideded government visa despite visas not being required for pilots in transit.

He said he believed the main reason for his bad treatment was because he was victimised by a deputy attorney-general of the government led by Mohammad Farah Aideded. Hussein's father who died on Aug. 1. He later heard the official was fired.

## Arab-Americans seek to reaffirm principle for peace in Middle East

WASHINGTON (USIA) — At a press conference in Washington on Friday, the Council of Presidents of National Arab American Organisations called for comprehensive peace talks similar to the Middle East peace conference in Madrid, Spain, where Palestinians joined delegations from Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and participants from the occupied territories to forge an agreement based on the principle of land-for-peace.

"We need Mr. Netanyahu and his government on board with us in a partnership. We cannot proceed without Israel," said Khalil E. Jahshan, chairman of the National Association of Arab Americans. Jahshan, who appeared at the Washington Press Club along with Dr. Hala Maksoud, vice chair of the council and president of the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee, praised President Bill Clinton for calling this week's two-day summit in Washington to prevent further loss of life following clashes in the West Bank, Gaza and East

Jerusalem last week.

Jahshan said that although the Washington summit helped bridge the gap between Palestinians and Israelis, the gesture was "a sin of commission rather than sin of omission...like putting a bandage on a brain tumor." Paraphrasing the words of former Secretary of State James Baker, who served under President George Bush, Jahshan said, "we need to keep our eye on the prize, a just, comprehensive and lasting peace. Right now the peace process is in a state of coma and needs resuscitation," he suggested.

Jahshan called for Arabs, Israelis and their supporters in the search for Middle East peace to come together soon and "reassess the process thus far, build on the aspects that have been successful and identify those components that have defied progress and see how we can redefine and improve them in order to move forward."

Jahshan suggested that far from wanting to move forward on Hebron, the current Israeli government appar-

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Kennedy couple end Turkish honeymoon

ISTANBUL (AP) — John F. Kennedy Jr. and his bride, Carolyn Bessette-Kennedy, ended their Turkish honeymoon Saturday and headed for New York, an Airport official said. The couple boarded a Turkish Airlines plane at 10:45 am (0745 GMT), said the official at Istanbul airport's VIP lounge. The official spoke on condition his name not be used. The newlyweds arrived in Istanbul late September to spend the first few days of their honeymoon in a luxury hotel, after marrying in Georgia. They later boarded a yacht to cruise the Aegean. The daily Hurriyet tracked the yacht down to the holiday resorts of Kusadasi and Gokcek. It said the two were seen sun-bathing and swimming and rarely left the boat. They flew back to Istanbul on Friday. "They were very nice people. I showed them the Aegean coast. They liked it very much," Hurriyet quoted the yacht's Greek captain, Andreas Lapoytos, as saying.

### Moroccan police seize tonne of cannabis

RABAT (AP) — Moroccan police seized more than a tonne of cannabis extract that was hidden in a grain silo, the government said Saturday. Authorities said they found 1,028 kilograms of the hemp derivative near the northern Moroccan city of Nador. Morocco in recent months has cracked down on the country's lucrative drug trade. Police have arrested and tried numerous foreigners on drug smuggling charges.

### Rejected by family, Moroccan lover kills himself

RABAT (R) — A 25-year-old Moroccan student, rejected by the family of his girlfriend Fatima, 23, doused himself with petrol and burnt himself to death, linking arms with his love for his last moments. "Some love kills," wrote the Moroccan newspaper Al Alam on Saturday, summing up the fate of the students from the university in the red-walled central city of Marrakesh. "The shock (of the family's rejection) was unbearable for Abdou Razak," Al Alam said, adding that he burst into his girlfriend's home, poured petrol on himself, set himself ablaze and grabbed the girl for a last embrace. "He hugged the girl and fell in flames," it said. "Fatima, who received emergency treatment, saved herself by pulling away from her blazing lover who turned into a lifeless corpse."

## Kuwaiti assembly ends term

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's parliament ended its term on Saturday after opening wide probes into alleged official corruption and Iraq's 1990 invasion of the emirate.

Speaker Ahmad Al Saadoun said in his closing address that parliament "defended public funds and held accountable those who allowed themselves to violate its sanctuary."

Kuwait in 1992 revived parliament and held elections for a new house. Parliament was dissolved in 1986 but the ruling Sabah family pledged during Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait to restore it. The pro-democracy opposition leader is among 41 current deputies seeking re-election in the Oct. 7 vote for the next parliament, which will take Kuwait into the next century.

Visiting former American Secretary of State James Baker attended the closing session. He played a key role, under former President George Bush, in putting together the coalition which reversed Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

15:05...Fleets American Tails  
15:30...Just The Job  
15:45...Mac and Muley  
16:00...Italian Soccer  
17:00...News Flash  
17:02...Sciences Cartoon  
17:15...La Vie Devant Moi  
17:30...Game Show - Qui Est Qui  
18:00...Magazine - La Marche Du Sicle/Part One  
19:00...Le Journal  
19:15...Magazine - Sports Et Musique  
19:30...News Headlines  
19:35...Cinema, Cinema, Cinema  
20:00...American Chart Show  
20:45...The Frush Prince of Bel-Air  
21:10...Blackie's Magic  
22:00...News in English  
22:25...Dazzle (pt. I)  
23:59...Short Story Cinema

### PRAYER TIMES

04:11...Fajr  
05:28...Sunrise/Duha  
11:24...Dhuhr  
14:45...Asr  
17:20...Maghreb  
18:37...Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweiffish, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
637785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
Armenian International Church Tel. 827126  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457.  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking  
Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 32, Aqaba 33 Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 50 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:  
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Sha'er 790405  
Dr. Fayed Dabbas 759155  
Dr. Mazen Nball 830435  
Dr. Fakher Bilbeisi 663412  
Firas pharmacy 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy 778336  
Al Asema pharmacy 623672  
Nairokh pharmacy 637055  
Al Salam pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660  
Najib pharmacy 847632  
IREBID:  
Dr. Ahmad Qanu 281484  
Al Quds pharmacy (—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Mazen Saifirini 985832  
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111

Amman 1563  
Aqaba 2136  
Deserts 1435  
Jordan Valley 2136

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341  
Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 617101  
Blood Bank 775121  
Highway Police 843402  
Traffic Police 896390  
Public Security Dept. 630321  
Hotel Complaints 605800  
Price Complaints 661176  
Water & Sewage Complaints 897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls 010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101  
Abdali Tel. Repairs 661101  
Jordan Television 773111  
Radio Jordan 774111  
Water Authority 680100  
J. Electricity Authority 815615  
Electric Power Co. 636381  
RJ Flight Information 08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 81381332  
Khalidi Maternity 6428136  
Akileh Maternity 6424412  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071  
Shmeisani Hospital 669131  
University Hospital

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 81381332  
Khalidi Maternity 6428136  
Akileh Maternity 6424412  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071  
Shmeisani Hospital 669131  
University Hospital

845845  
Al-Munshar Hospital 6672278  
The Islamic, Abdali 66612637  
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7771013  
Al-Bashir 77511126  
Army, Marka 89161115  
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050  
Ansal Hospital 674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199  
ZARQA:  
Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990  
IREBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275  
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

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### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should

always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 08 (52700)

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in F. Kennedy Jr. and his wife, who ended their Turkish honeymoon in New York. The Turkish Airlines said the official at Istanbul airport spoke on condition of anonymity that the couple arrived in Istanbul a few days after their honeymoon. The couple, who were seen sunbathing at the hotel, they flew back to the U.S. on a private jet. They were seen at the airport. Greek and Turkish officials are investigating the crash.

ize tonne of cannabis

been seized in a raid on a farm in the north of the country. The police said the cannabis was intended for export to the Netherlands. The police also seized a large quantity of hashish and a number of small quantities of other drugs.

Toroccan lover kills him

an 18-year-old Moroccan man was killed by his 22-year-old Moroccan lover in a hotel in the north of the country. The police said the couple had been having a fight. The Moroccan man was found with a knife wound to the chest. The Moroccan woman was found with a knife in her hand. The police are investigating the case.

Kuwaiti assembly ends term

# Home News



Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Abdullah Ensour Saturday meets with visiting Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Pakistani Armed Forces Farouq Khan. Air Field Marshal Khan arrived in Amman Saturday on a several-day visit to the Kingdom. He is accompanied by Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan Ali Sarwar Naqvi (Petra photo)

## Student wins lawsuit against university

AMMAN (J.T.) — A university student has won a lawsuit filed against a Jordanian public universities admission committee which had rejected her application to the Dentistry Faculty of the University of Jordan.

Despite a score of 96.6 on the Tawjihi examination, the university placed Iman Khalaf Masaadeh in the Faculty of Engineering — a department to which she had not applied.

Reports in the local press said that Ms. Masaadeh was astonished to subsequently learn that some students with an equal average tawjihi score, including at least one with an average score of 96.5, were, indeed, accepted to the dentistry faculty.

Attorney Khalaf Masaadeh filed a lawsuit on behalf of Ms. Masaadeh at the Supreme Court demanding that she be admitted to the Dentistry Faculty.

He said that the case was examined by a panel of judges headed by Justice Mahmoud Hijazi and that the court issued its verdict on Sept. 29, 1996.

The judges' statement said that the Council of Higher Education (CHE) which is the higher authority on student acceptance at public universities violated the rules which it, itself had made and, therefore, could not act as a neutral authority in the matter.

After due examination of the case, the court found that the CHE accepted four students in the Dentistry Faculty of the University of Jordan with average grades less than that of the plaintiff, according to the verdict.

The court ruled CHE's rejection of Ms. Masaadeh's application as null and void.

## 'Occupational accidents take their toll in the Kingdom'

AMMAN (Petra) — Occupational accidents in sundry businesses and factories have cost the Kingdom a total of JD13,269,000 so far this year.

The sum was totalled as considering lost business and as the resultant outcome of injuries and deaths, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Labour Saturday.

Ministry Secretary General Saleh Tarawneh addressed a workshop, organised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in conjunction with the Ministry

of Labour, avowing that ministry inspection teams have been instructed to conduct careful examinations of factories and other businesses to ensure strict adherence to safety and other regulations and ensure that worker protection measures are followed.

The Ministry of Labour's regulations include safety measures, regulations as to working hours, weekly and annual holidays, provision of an atmosphere conducive to production in factories and farms as well as measures designed to enable workers to improve

efficiency and facilitate a more extended duration at their posts, said Mr. Tarawneh.

ILO representative Nabil Watfeh stated that his group maintains close cooperation with the Kingdom and that the three-day workshop inaugurates a series of joint activities between the two.

He added that the ILO office will cooperate with the Ministry of Labour in drawing up a set of maximum safety regulations for workers.

Dr. Watfeh emphasised cooperation as essential among the three parties

involved: the government, the workers and the employers. He called such collaboration essential if progress and increased production are to be achieved.

Participants in the meeting will review legislation regarding occupational safety and injury. Social Security Corporation regulations and application and safety measures' inspections.

They will make field trips to a number of factories and conduct on the spot inspections.

## Agricultural reform programme looks at food production

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Mustafa Shneikat Saturday said that Jordan has requested the assistance of various organisations and donor nations in the restructuring of its agricultural sector.

The reforms are intended to streamline food production. Addressing the opening session of a two-day workshop, the minister said that this restructuring entails lifting restrictions, reducing government influence and seeking the best and most profitable utilisation of available resources.

As is the case with many countries with limited resources, he said, Jordan cannot execute such ambitious programmes without external assistance, [much of] which has been forthcoming from the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

Restructuring the agricultural sector is a priority of the Ministry of Agriculture, stressed the minister who also stated that reform is essential if Jordan is to cater to local, regional and international regulations. The workshop is slated to examine the projected

application of the reform programme, worked out by a ministry team in cooperation with GTZ representatives, and to consult with local farmers regarding the programme, said the minister.

Dr. Shneikat confirmed that the meeting will debate the impact and potential results of applying such a reform programme in the agricultural sector, establish a database as well as a system to monitor both positive and negative consequences of the programme and resolve kinks if such arise.

## Archaeologist questions ethnic claim to Jerusalem

By Tanya Habbjouja  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — American professor of archaeology and theology Thomas L. Thompson addressed a symposium marking Jerusalem Day and questioned claims of Jewish ethnicity and thus hegemony over Jerusalem.

The seventh annual Jerusalem Day symposium began yesterday at the Royal Cultural Centre with Professor Thompson, who teaches at the University of Copenhagen.

Dr. Thompson, author of "Ancient History of the People of Israel" took to the podium with a thesis entitled "Continuity and Change in Jerusalem's Population from the Earliest Times to the Greco-Roman Period."

He detailed the diverse range of people who inhabited the Holy Land, maintaining that Judaism is representative of a religion and not a people.

Dr. Thompson's theories concerning Jews and Judaism led to his termination from the University of Milwaukee "by conservative Catholics," he said.

Although his paper was historically focused, a question and answer period brought him to the current-day situation in

Israel and the occupied Palestinian lands. Asked to comment on the opening of a second entrance to a tunnel beneath Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem, Dr. Thompson said: "When I was in Jerusalem in 1991, no serious Israeli archaeologist would be associated with the digging of the tunnel [because of legitimacy issues] of Israelis digging in the Arab sectors."

Other speakers included Dr. Subhi Ghosheh, chairman of the Jerusalem Day Committee and Dr. Hazim Nuseaba from the United Nations office in Jordan.

Also included in the symposium was a photography exhibition of Jerusalem, as well as assorted literature.

Khader Nijim, a volunteer and contributing photographer to the exhibit, took participants on a tour of the show, explaining the history behind each shot. He claimed his own family's history in Jerusalem dates back to 1237.

The four-day symposium will continue with a range of issues including the right of return of Arabs displaced from the holy city in 1948 to Western scholarship and silencing of Palestinian history.

The event is being held at the Royal Cultural Centre.

## Universities of Jordan, Beijing sign agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — The University of Jordan and the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing Saturday signed an agreement on cultural exchanges and cooperation in higher education.

The agreement was signed by University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh and for the Beijing University, Sun Weiyan and provides for faculty member exchanges ranging from one week to one academic term, in order to deliver lectures or conduct joint research.

The agreement also provides for the two sides to conduct joint supervisory work in the implementation of various programmes and in matters concerning the improvement of examination methodology.

The two universities will exchange publications; scientific textbooks and organise seminars and conferences pertaining to higher education.



President of the University of Jordan Fawzi Gharaibeh and Dr. Sun Weiyan, of the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing Saturday sign a cultural and higher education agreement

Prior to the ceremony, the Chinese delegation members were briefed on the University of Jordan's undergraduate and post-graduate programmes and

they, in turn, stressed their desire to step up cooperation and expert exchange with Jordanian universities. Dr. Weiyan expressed

interest in engaging the service of Jordanian Arabic language teachers to work in Beijing where, he said, there is a growing student demand to learn Arabic.

## RJ joins hands with advertising agency

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) Saturday concluded an agreement with the Bahrain-based agency Afkar Promo Seven to serve as its primary advertising agent.

RJ Vice-President for Commercial Affairs Majdi Sabri signed the contract with Fares Abu Hamad from the advertising agency and said in a statement that the agency will undertake all of the airline's promotional work including that to foreign travel agents.

"RJ is about to enter a new stage of development and this agreement is part of the endeavour [in terms of] the airline's new marketing objectives," Dr. Sabri said.

As specified by the agreement the two sides must concur on the type and form of advertising and promo-

tional programmes, he added, noting that the airline has been spending an annual \$1 million on advertising and promotional services.

Dr. Sabri also said that the industry displayed signs of growth in the past year which continued until the end of last May.

But he said that political developments in the Middle East have negatively affected the tourist industry, citing events in Lebanon, the political shifts in Israel and the peace process in general, adding that the global tourist industry is normally affected by such developments.

Dr. Sabri said that although the tourism industry began to decline as of last June, RJ only felt the full impact of this abatement in the past two months.

"We received cancellations by tourist groups from Europe who had originally intended to come to Jordan two months ago and cancellation of full reservations from the United States," said Dr. Sabri.

He said that there was a 50 per cent drop in reservations as compared with the same period last year and that reservations for 13,000 tourists on regular flights and 13,000 tourists on chartered flights were cancelled between May and November.

He said that the present season represents the height of the tourist season and that he hopes that tourist groups will soon be arriving to the Kingdom.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### CONCERT

\*Performance by Al Hannunah Band at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

### LECTURES

\*"God the Architect" by Kahtan Al Madfai at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh at 7:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\*"Coloured Silence" exhibition by Samira Abdul Wahab at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 687598), until Oct. 20.

\*Works by Ghada Dahdaleh at the French Cultural Centre, until Oct. 29.

\*"The Fifth One-Dimension Exhibition" by several artists at Ab'ad Art Gallery, Mecca Street (Tel. 862105), until Oct. 10.

\*Basketry exhibition (with a variety of wrought iron furniture mixed with basketry) at Jordan Design and Trade Centre, Shmeisani (Tel. 699141/2), until Oct. 10.

\*"Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh (including ceramic sculptures by Vera Tamari, photographs of Jordanian villages by Ammar Khamash, works by contemporary Arab artists, a mosaic exhibition, and others), until Oct. 8.

## Introduction of women's quota: the yeas and nays

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Political party leaders, members of Parliament (MPs) and other politicians are divided about the possible introduction of a special quota for women in a new election law slated for passage prior to next year's general elections.

Such a quota is still a concept; it has not yet been officially proposed in draft legislation to the Lower House of Parliament.

But it has been part of the new election law talk for the past few months.

Supported by some women's rights activists and politicians who see it as a desirable "precautionary measure," a women's quota in the elected legislature would serve as a "positive differentiation" to encourage the participation of women into politics, proponents say.

Yet others believe that, notwithstanding the scant representation of women in the current parliament, the introduction of a quota for women would be "discriminatory" and, therefore, "unconstitutional."

"We cannot play with the Constitution," says Toujan Faisal, the only woman deputy in the Lower House, adding that "to introduce a special quota for women the Constitution itself should be amended."

As do many leaders and members of the opposition parties, she blames the current one-person, one-vote system for the scarce representation of women in the House on the grounds that the persistence of an elec-

toral formula encouraging and favouring tribalism necessarily keeps women away from the political arena.

If each voter is requested to express one preference only, as in the one-person, one-vote system, he/she will most likely vote for the male relative candidate of his/her tribe, Ms. Faisal and many opposition leaders say.

"This election law (ratified in 1993, before the last general elections) was specifically designed to favour tribalism and pit the tribes against each other, so that the Members of Parliament are busy clashing with each other for their tribal interests and do not work on politics," Ms. Faisal charged.

On the other hand, the Jordanian Women's Union (JWU), which first proposed a quota for women during a workshop on women's role in politics last spring, says the quota system would help ensure women's participation in the decision-making process.

"The JWU realises that the quota system does not embody the principle of democracy and equality, but the one-person, one-vote formula as well as social and economic factors hinder women's participation in the political life," a JWU statement says.

Islamists oppose the entire quota concept outright. According to Islamic Action Front (IAF) Executive Bureau Member Abdul Latif Arabiyat, "any quota allocating seats for minorities or women, is anti-democratic."

Claiming that, as "all Jordanians are equal in the eyes of the Constitution," the religious and ethnic minority quotas should be abolished, Dr. Arabiyat told the Jordan Times in a recent interview.

He also said that the IAF "encourages and supports the participation of women in the country's political life, but is against any quota."

Under current legislation nine seats are reserved in the Lower House for Christians, three for Circassians and six for bedouins.

Outside and inside the IAF, the Islamists reject quotas tout-court, and therefore the idea of a quota for women, as well.

"The idea of introducing a quota for women should be rejected for the women's own sake, as they would be discriminated (against) even more," former IAF member Ahmad Kasasbeh told the Jordan Times.

The difference in opinions over the women's quota is more acute among the leftist groups.

Though favouring the conservation of minority quotas, Socialist Democratic Party (SDP) Secretary General Issa Madanat is against the idea of reserving a certain number or percentage of parliamentary seats for women.

"Ms. Faisal, with her active and untiring participation in parliament, set a good precedent for women, and now people know how good an MP a woman could be," Mr. Madanat also commented.

Jordan Communist Party (JCP) Secretary General Yacoub Zayaddin is in favour of a women quota, and also thinks that "a certain number of seats in each district should be reserved for women."

According to Dr. Zayaddin, Egypt, where the minority quotas have been abolished, provides a useful example.

"Since the abolition of minority quotas, not even one single Copt (a minority Christian sect) has been elected in the Egyptian parliament," Dr. Zayaddin said.

To many, a women's quota does not seem as necessary as the ethnic and religious minority quotas.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, former Prime Minister and Senator Abdul Salam Majali said "education is the only answer to the problem of the scarce political representation of women."

According to Dr. Majali, ethnic and religious minority quotas should, nonetheless, be maintained.

Not only "minorities, as such, must be given extra-privileges," but also "minorities in Jordan have always stood up for the stability of this country and (the system) must guarantee that they are properly represented," Dr. Majali said.



## Dole is hoping for boost in first debate with Clinton; Perot still out

CHAUTAUQUA, New York (AFP) — Republican challenger Bob Dole hopes his first televised debate Sunday with President Bill Clinton will be the turning point he needs to chip away at the Democrat's formidable lead.

Meanwhile, an appeals court Friday rejected independent candidate Ross Perot's last-ditch bid to enter the debates.

Sen. Dole, 73, this week launched a furious attack on Mr. Clinton's foreign policy, leading some to think that international matters — on the sidelines until now — will come up during the first face-off in Hartford, Connecticut.

Rather than an actual debate, the match in Hartford will be more like a news conference, with each candidate taking turns responding in 90 seconds to questions posed by a television moderator.

But extemporaneous direct exchanges are nevertheless possible.

Mr. Clinton, who has been preparing debate tactics since Thursday in Chautauqua, a small town in New York state, maintains a strong lead over Sen. Dole in public opinion polls.

In the latest USA Today-CNN poll, Mr. Clinton was leading Sen. Dole by 17 points, or 53 per cent to 36 per cent.

"What it (the debate) could do is make more people see what Sen. Dole is like and feel more comfortable voting for him. In that sense, it gives him the chance to convince some people who are lukewarm about Mr. Clinton and would like to vote for Sen. Dole," said Lewis Wolfson, a professor at American University in Washington and an expert on presidential debates.

"Whether that would be enough to cement the lead is very hard to believe," he added.

Sen. Dole is sure to hit Mr. Clinton with the "liberal" label, largely an insult in the United States, and with being lax in the war against drugs and crime.

The Republican candidate is also likely to question the relative health of the economy, which is Mr. Clinton's strong suit, while again offering his promise to slash income taxes by 15 per cent.

White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said Mr. Clinton was also fully expecting Sen. Dole to attack

the president's character and morality and to bring up the Whitewater affair, the failed real estate venture in which the Clintons were partners, and which is now the subject of a federal probe.

For his part, Mr. Clinton said that his goal will be to "make sure that the voters know what the record is, (that) they know what the contrasts are between (former) Senator Dole and me, and most important of all, that they know what I intend to do for the next four years."

Mr. Clinton is expected to tout the strong economy, notably a recent report showing median incomes are up in the United States.

For Mr. Perot, the last word on the debate came from a three-judge panel that rejected arguments that the Federal Election Commission improperly delegated authority to a private debate commission that excluded the fiery Texan.

Attorneys for the Reform Party candidate indicated they would not appeal the ruling.

"The court has washed its hands of this crucifixion of democracy," said Russ Vemey, national coordinator of

Perot '96.

"The American people can resurrect it by voting for Ross Perot on Nov. 5."

Sen. Dole is hoping to get a boost from an event that is clearly not his forte. Even Sen. Dole himself acknowledges Mr. Clinton is a better debater. And yet it is here that danger lies for the president.

Already, 70 per cent of Americans believe that Mr. Clinton will beat Sen. Dole in the debates, according to a USA Today/CNN poll. Hence, anything less than a stellar performance by Mr. Clinton could be seen as a Dole victory.

Mr. Clinton is working on his tactics by doing practice runs, with former Senate majority leader George Mitchell playing the part of Sen. Dole. Sen. Mitchell called Sen. Dole, a longtime former colleague, a "highly skilled debater."

"And I think he's going to be tough in this debate, Sen. Mitchell said.

"I am badly out of shape on this," Mr. Clinton said for his part, adding that Sen. Mitchell "beat me like a drum" during trial runs.

The second presidential debate is set for Oct. 16 in San Diego, California.

## Largest Chinese protest fleet to date to depart for disputed islands

TAIPEI (AFP) — A flotilla carrying some 200 activists from Taiwan and Hong Kong is to set sail for a disputed island group Sunday in the largest protest so far against Japanese territorial claims there.

But interference by Taiwan's Coast Guard looms as a possibility, and Taiwanese authorities have urged protesters to drop their plans and allow diplomats to handle the dispute.

The flotilla is expected to depart from the northwestern harbour of Shen Ao late Sunday and approach the Diaoyu Islands, known to Japanese as the Senkakus, early Monday.

The flotilla would also rendezvous en route with around 100 protesters from mainland China, a Hong Kong activist who will take part said Saturday.

Tsang Kin-Shing, a legislator and spokesman for the Hong Kong-based Action Committee in Defence of the Diaoyu Islands, said he had received a telephone call from Guangzhou confirming the rendezvous.

The islands, claimed by Japan, China and Taiwan, are surrounded by valuable fishing grounds and thought to be rich in oil and gas deposits.

Anti-Japanese sentiment in Hong Kong, Taiwan and China has mounted since July, when an ultra-right-wing Japanese group erected a lighthouse on one of the islands as a symbol of Japan's claim.

Hong Kong activist leader David Chan accidentally

drowned after jumping into waters near the islands in an act of protest last week, bringing further attention to the issue.

Equipped with rubber boats, water scooters, remote-control aircraft and "secret facilities," the protesters planned to land on the islands, the event's Taiwan leader, Ching Jie-Shou, said Saturday.

Landings by previous protest expeditions have been prevented by Japanese Coast-Guard vessels.

This 30-vessel flotilla, mainly fishing boats and pleasure craft, risks being intercepted by Taiwan authorities, however.

Under Taiwan fisheries laws, fishing vessels are prohibited from carrying "landing facilities" — motorised small craft — while pleasure boats are legally restricted to areas within 58 kilometres (36 miles) of the Taiwanese coast.

But Mr. Ching brushed aside the rules, saying: "We are not smugglers... it is an act of patriotism."

"Our government has acted like it were a colony under Japan and we are tired of its weakness," said Mr. Ching, a Taipei county councillor of the right-wing New Party.

The Taiwan government has called for citizens to remain calm and allow the dispute to be handled through diplomatic channels.

Deputy Interior Minister Yang Pao-Fa Saturday urged the protesters to drop their plans. "In principle,

the government hopes people safeguarding Taiwan's sovereignty over the Diaoyu Islands will think twice and cancel the protest," he said.

China has also prohibited unauthorised protests nationwide, casting doubt on the report of mainland participants joining the flotilla.

Thousands in Hong Kong were expected to pay their last respects to Chan Saturday, whose body will be cremated Sunday. Chan's family has asked China to help scatter his ashes on the disputed islands.

Reports said Japan has dispatched more navy ships to enforce patrols near the disputed islands.

"I don't think the Japanese will use force against us. We are unarmed, non-violent and a peace mission," Mr. Ching said.

Mr. Ching said the fleet would stop 15 nautical miles from the islands before launching landing attempts.

Remote-control planes would be used to drop Nationalist Chinese flags on the island if the protesters come within one nautical mile but are unable to land, he said.

In a separate protest Sunday, other Taiwan New Party deputies are to launch into the sea 10,000 bottles containing copies of historical Japanese records which support Chinese sovereignty claims over the islands.

The Taiwan-based flotilla is scheduled to leave at 6:00 p.m. Sunday (1000 GMT).

## China says Taiwan stands in way of reunification

BEIJING (R) — China accused Taiwan Saturday of standing in the way of reunification by creating obstacles to economic and trade cooperation, saying the island it regards as a rebel province was "squashing its own feet with a rock."

"Taiwanese authorities... have a deep political motive in setting up obstacles to trade and economic development between the two sides and that is to stand in the way of reunification," the official Xinhua news agency said in a commentary.

Taiwan was "squashing its own feet with a rock" by refusing to end a decades-old ban on direct trade and transport links with the mainland, a move that would be conducive to both sides, Xinhua said.

Taiwan has banned direct air and shipping links with China since the end of the civil war between the Nationalists and the Communists in 1949. But it allows indirect links through Hong Kong or other countries.

Xinhua stressed that 17 years had passed since China first called on Taiwan to lift the ban.

Taiwanese businessmen have poured more than \$20 billion into China, and many of them have been calling for direct transport links to the mainland. But Taipei sees the ban as its last bargaining chip in reunification talks with Beijing.

Taiwan says it is committed to reunification, but stresses that this cannot be achieved overnight. Beijing has threatened to invade the island if it declares independence.

In August, China unilaterally introduced a series of regulations to pave the way for direct shipping links with Taiwan.

The Xinhua commentary said Taiwan would be giving away good investment opportunities and a huge market if its economy were not linked to that of the mainland, and the island's economic development would be hurt.

"These reactionary policies are not only unpopular, but will also be futile," the commentary said.

"It has been proven that it is not feasible to use political differences to influence or obstruct economic cooperation between the two sides," it said.



Tony Blair leader of the Labour Party waves and shakes hands as he makes his way through the cheering delegates after deputy leader John Prescott's rallying speech at the end of the Labour Party Conference (Reuters photo)

## Right-wing British tabloid press gives Blair a soft ride

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's right-wing tabloid press this week handed Tony Blair, youthful leader of the Labour Party, a much-welcomed propaganda coup, as once hostile newspapers lined up to shower him with praise.

"Mr. Blair, seeking to overturn 17 years of Conservative rule in elections due by next spring, received a glowing tribute in the mass-circulation Sun newspaper after he delivered Tuesday's keynote speech at the party's crucial pre-election conference."

The rabidly right-wing Sun, owned by Australian-born media tycoon Rupert Murdoch, claimed to have clinched the narrow Conservative victory in 1992 with its campaign against Labour.

But this week, the newspaper, which has a circulation of four million, gushed in an editorial that Mr. Blair's "vision of a decent society, his promise of a better way of doing things were an echo of the raw power that swept Margaret Thatcher to power (in 1979)."

"Trust me. That was Tony Blair's impressive message to the people. It is a chance that most will be only too pleased to take," it said.

The day after, 62 per cent of the 6,000 Sun readers who called in to give their verdict on who should be the country's next prime minister opted for Tony Blair.

In the Daily Mail, another traditionally right-wing newspaper, with a middle-class readership, the editori-

al said: "Yesterday we witnessed a commanding performance by the man most likely to be Britain's next prime minister."

These honey-tongued tributes do not mark a sudden change in the papers' standpoint, but they confirm decisively a dramatic shift in press allegiances, explained Rodney Barker, professor of politics at the London School of Economics (LSE).

"It's not a sudden change. It is a high-point in a fairly long-term trend. Ever since about late 1992, early 1993, the normally Conservative press has been getting increasingly critical of the government," he said.

"So that now, the Conservative Party can't automatically rely on the press in the way they could in the past."

The Sun could come out in open support of Mr. Blair, and the new modernised Labour Party has forged since taking over as leader two years ago, at the next elections, Prof. Barker said.

Such an endorsement "would be an important factor... you don't need much of a sway, five per cent either way will win a general election."

Stuart Higgins, editor of the Sun, declined to comment on the newspaper's political stance.

The Sun, which urged Tory deputies to ditch Prime Minister John Major in the July 1995 leadership contest, and other parts of the Conservative press, view Mr. Major's administration as "an old ineffective, stale government, which just

isn't competent any more," Prof. Barker said.

Mr. Murdoch, who is believed to have held several secret meetings with Mr. Blair in the recent past, and invited the Labour leader to address a conference in Australia earlier this year, has other reasons for switching his support, he added.

"The Murdoch press, the Times and the Sun, are hedging their bets anyway. There is a fair amount of tricky political and commercial calculation in what the Murdoch press get up to," commented the LSE expert.

Last year, Mr. Murdoch's BSKYB satellite broadcaster put in a minuscule bid to broadcast Channel 5, the new terrestrial TV channel due to be launched here in 1997, in effect pulling out of the race, after it emerged that new government rules on cross-media ownership would prevent Mr. Murdoch from moving into terrestrial TV because of his large share of the British newspaper market.

Although Labour continues to hold a commanding lead in all opinion polls, with the elections at most eight months away, Mr. Blair knows that victory is not firmly in his grasp.

The economy is experiencing a mini-boom, fuelled by consumer spending, bringing back the so-called "feel good factor" among the British population, which at the 1992 elections voted the Tories back in, despite polls pointing to a Labour victory.

## Charles' secretary quits

LONDON (AFP) — The personal secretary to Britain's Prince Charles is leaving the job after 11 years, it was announced Friday, but there was disagreement over whether they were parting ways on good terms. In a statement, Saint James' Palace — the prince's official residence — said that Commander Richard Aylard, 44, would be leaving the service of the Prince of Wales in the early part of the new year. "Both the prince and Richard feel the time is right for a change," a spokesman said. "We hope there is no other reason for the departure." The mass-circulation Sun newspaper was due to report Saturday on "growing friction" between the two men over the future role of the prince's companion Camilla Parker-Bowles, the Sun's editor Stuart Higgins said. Commander Aylard, a Royal Navy veteran, served Prince Charles throughout the stormy breakup of his marriage to Princess Diana. He was responsible for advising the prince to give his controversial television interview in 1994, in which he admitted adultery for the first time.

## School-yard slaughter computer game slammed

LONDON (R) — Britons campaigning against guns following the massacre of 16 children in their Scottish village school called on Saturday for a ban on a computer game depicting a mass shooting in a schoolyard. The American CD-ROM, entitled Schoolyard Slaughter, has been on sale in Britain for a year and has been distributed to many of the country's computer libraries. Players are required to shoot at schoolchildren as they walk across the playground and score points if they hit them in the head. The computer game was dreamed up before crazed gunman Thomas Hamilton opened fire on the four-and-five-year-olds and their teacher in their school at Dunblane in March. But Jacqueline Walsh, an organiser of the anti-handgun Snowdrop Campaign set up after the shooting, told reporters "this should never have come into the country in the first place... The idea of shooting at children has never been socially acceptable. It shows that computer libraries have to be more vigilant about what they've got, what images they promote. They should look through their stock and throw them out," Ms. Walsh said.

## 'Cannes for kids' opens in Chicago

CHICAGO (AFP) — The Chicago Children's International Film Festival, also known as the "Cannes for Kids," opens here Friday, with a broad selection of innovative, non-violent movies from 30 countries. The 10-day festival, now in its 13th year, will feature 75 films, live action and animated, shorts and features as well as workshops on filmmaking. "The festival has grown enormously over the years and the quality of the films has greatly improved," said Lennie Rose, the festival's social director. A children's jury is on hand to evaluate each entry and will award the coveted prize to the winner on Oct. 13. "The kids take it very seriously. It makes them feel very authoritative in their world's view," Rose said. "There are more films than in the past with very strong female protagonists," said Michael Graham, who chairs the live-action feature jury. In Watch Me Fly, a Danish film, two girls from different social backgrounds train pigeons to fly in a contest while Keeping House from New Zealand tells the story of a feisty young woman who prefer to play her trombone and tap dancing on stage to cleaning up the mess in her house.

## Canadian defence minister resigns

OTTAWA (R) — Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien dismissed his beleaguered Defence Minister, David Collette, Friday for having inappropriately interfered with an immigration case.

But Mr. Chretien said he hoped to bring his long-time friend and political ally back into his cabinet.

The two main opposition parties, the Bloc Quebecois and the Reform Party, had demanded Mr. Collette resign in connection with an alleged cover-up of an incident during a peacekeeping mission several years ago in which Canadian soldiers tortured and killed several Somalis.

But Mr. Collette told a news conference that his official resignation had nothing to do with Somalia and solely with having breached guidelines by having written a letter asking for swift action on an immigration case.

"It's the only honourable thing to do," said a sombre

Mr. Collette, a long-time political ally of Mr. Chretien.

Mr. Collette was the third cabinet minister in Mr. Chretien's three-year tenure to leave office in controversy.

Deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps resigned in May from the cabinet and parliament over a broken tax promise but was brought back into cabinet after winning a special election.

In January Mr. Chretien pushed aside another much-criticised official, Canadian Heritage Minister Michel Dupuy, who had written on behalf of a constituent to the agency that regulates broadcasters.

Mr. Chretien had won a landslide election in 1993 from the Conservatives, partly because of voter frustration with scandals under former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Mr. Chretien said he was extremely sorry to accept Mr. Collette's resignation but added: "I told him that I

hope soon I'll be in a position to take him back into my cabinet."

"I think it's very kind of him to offer to bring me back into cabinet but there are no guarantees in politics. I appreciate what he said but that's all," Mr. Collette said, adding he would stay in parliament and seek reelection.

The Bloc Quebecois' deputy leader, Suzanne Tremblay, said she was suspicious of the circumstances of the resignation: "I think this smells like a false pretext. Mr. Collette will be back in cabinet after a few months."

The resignation came about as the result of a request from a private citizen under Canada's access to information law.

Mr. Collette said it came to the attention of Mr. Chretien's Chief of Staff, Jean Pelletier, that the letter he wrote in March to the immigration and refugee board was about to be released.



Charles' secret  
quits

LONDON (AFP) — Prince Charles' personal secretary, Brian's Prince Charles, leaving the job after years, it was announced Friday, but there was agreement over the terms. In a statement, Prince Charles' official spokesman said that Prince Charles' secretary, Richard Aylard, 44, was leaving the Prince of Wales' office. "Both the prince and Richard feel the time has come for a change," the spokesman said. "There is no other reason for the departure." The prince's secretary had been with him since 1982. "I was very lucky to have had Richard for so long," the prince said. "He has been a great help and a great friend."

School-yard  
slaughter comp  
game slammed

NEW YORK (AP) — A schoolyard slaughter game in a New York City school was slammed by city officials. The game, which involved shooting a ball at a target, was said to be a "harmful and dangerous activity." City officials said they were considering banning the game. "We are concerned about the safety of our children," a city official said. "We want to make sure they are playing safe games."

Cannes for  
opens in Chic

CANNES (AP) — The Cannes film festival opens in France on Friday. The festival, which is one of the most prestigious in the world, attracts thousands of film enthusiasts and celebrities. "We are excited to welcome everyone to Cannes," a festival official said. "It's a great time to be here."



The body of Choi Duck-keun, South Korean consul in Vladivostok, is being carried at Seoul's Kimpo Airport Saturday. Choi, who was responsible for North Korean affairs and security at the Vladivostok consulate, was stabbed and bludgeoned to death on the stairs outside his apartment by unidentified assailants last Friday (Reuters photo)

## N. Korea attacks Seoul's 'slander' on envoy killing

SEOUL (R) — North Korea said Saturday that suggestions by Seoul that it was involved in the killing of a South Korean diplomat in Russia were "groundless slander." "Although they connect the death of the puppet consul with the North in a far-fetched way, they can convince no one," the official Korea Central News Agency said in a report monitored in Tokyo. "The South Korean puppets are groundlessly slandering the North." South Korea has never accused North Korea of involvement in the murder of its consul in the Russian Far East city of Vladivostok Tuesday. But South Korean media immediately pointed accusing fingers at Pyongyang, which has threatened to retaliate over the deaths of 22 North Korean agents who infiltrated into the South by submarine two weeks ago. Choi Duck-Keun, who was responsible for North Korean affairs and security at the Vladivostok consulate, was stabbed and bludgeoned to death on the stairs outside his apartment by unidentified assailants. In its first official reaction to the killing Friday, North Korea's Rodong Sinmun newspaper accused Seoul of "framing a despicable plot." Pyongyang has demanded the immediate return of the submarine along with its surviving and dead crew. An estimated 26 North Koreans were on board, one has been captured alive and three are still on the loose.

## N. Korea faces harsh winter, possible malnutrition

BEIJING (R) — North Koreans face a shortage of 1.5 million tonnes of grain after hailstorms, floods and rains, and Red Cross officials said Saturday they were monitoring for malnutrition and stunted growth among children. "Nutritionally, the country hovers on a knife-edge, with clear indications of a significant health threat, particularly among young children, continuing to emerge," said Jerry Talbot, director of the Asia and Pacific Department of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. "They (North Korean officials) are stressing the need for food," Mr. Talbot said after a four-day visit to the Hermit Nation this week. The 1996 harvest was expected to reach just 3.5 million tonnes while 5.0 million tonnes are needed — or a shortfall equivalent to the annual requirement of six million people, Mr. Talbot said. "For the third year in succession, the winter months will be particularly grim for vulnerable groups, with the cumulative effects of massive floods in 1995 and 1996 ravaging the harvest currently under way," he said. "Hail storms caused widespread destruction in 1994." Mr. Talbot said he did not expect starvation during the coming harsh winter months, but said those left destitute by the floods would have difficulty keeping warm. He added that the Red Cross would begin monitoring for possible malnutrition and for stunted growth among children. "We see a chronic food deficit, although we do not see starvation," he said. The federation would launch an appeal soon for 10 million Swiss francs (\$8.3 million) in aid, and had received an 80 per cent response to its previous call for 12.7 million Swiss francs in aid, he said. "I can't say we will have enough food this winter," North Korean Red Cross Secretary-General Paek Yong Ho told Mr. Talbot during his visit. North Korea received about 320,000 tonnes of food aid over the last year, Mr. Talbot said, but that did not erase the 1.5 million harvest shortfall. He said Pyongyang would soon face a dilemma over whether to use its precious foreign exchange to pay for imports of essential foods or for more long-term items such as machinery and fertilizer. North Korea has faced food shortages since being hit by the worst floods in a century in 1995, exacerbated by more floods last July that wiped out an estimated 373,000 tonnes of grain. North Korea, still technically at war with South Korea since a 1950-53 conflict that ended only in a truce, dropped some of its earlier opposition to foreign aid last year to confront the crisis. Relations between North and South Korea are at a low ebb following the incursion last month of a North Korean submarine into South Korean waters. South Korea Friday called on the United Nations Security Council to take "appropriate action" over the incursion and ordered security tightened at airports and diplomatic missions against possible terrorist attack.

## CIS leaders vow to repel any Afghan border threat

ALMATY (R) — The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) has vowed to defend areas bordering on Afghanistan if fighting there spills over. But leaders agreed at a summit meeting not to interfere in the conflict. Five leaders of former Soviet republics, alarmed by the rise to power in Kabul of a radical Islamic militia, ended their summit Friday with an appeal to the rival groups to hold talks and for the United Nations to discuss the situation. "We call upon all warring parties to stop hostilities and resume peace negotiations," Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev said at a joint news conference. He also accused the Taliban militia of human rights violations after the seizure of Kabul last week, referring to the execution of some of the Taliban's political opponents. "We denounce the executions and violations of human rights committed in Afghanistan," Mr. Nazarbayev said. The Taliban's victims included former Moscow-backed Afghan President Najibullah, a Communist installed as Afghan leader in 1987 during the 10-year Soviet occupation of the country. Russia and Tajikistan, following up the Almaty summit, agreed Saturday to tighten security on the Tajik-Afghan border, where Russian frontier guards are helping the pro-Moscow government in Dushanbe resist Islamic Tajik rebels based in Afghanistan. The summit was attended by the presidents of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The CIS is a loose grouping of 12 of the 15 former Soviet states. Mr. Nazarbayev said participants at the summit would take "adequate measures" to defend themselves if the conflict spilled over from Afghanistan. But he and other participants made clear that no practical steps would be taken unless this happened. "We are strongly against interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs," Mr. Nazarbayev said. Interfax news agency said Saturday that Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov and Tajik President Imomali Rakhmonov "agreed to take the necessary measures to strengthen security on the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan." The agency gave no details. Russia deploys thousands of border guards along the remote and mountainous border along the Amu Darya River where there are frequent clashes with Tajik Islamist guerrillas. Uzbek President Islam Karimov said that Afghan warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum, an ethnic Uzbek, was all that stood between the Taliban militia and the former Soviet Republics. Mr. Karimov said that Gen. Dostum, who controls a strategic tunnel to the north, deserved stronger support from CIS neighbors. "If this tunnel is surrendered, they will have no obstacle on their way northwards and we don't know how far they may go," he said. "If we do not want the war to escalate, if we want to force all parties to the negotiating table, we have to make sure that Gen. Dostum keeps the tunnel under his control." There was no indication that the other leaders at the summit shared Karimov's views. Uzbekistan is one of three former Soviet central Asian republics that border Afghanistan. Mr. Nazarbayev said he, Chernomyrdin, Tajik President Rakhmonov, Karimov and Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev wanted the U.N. Security Council to meet on Afghanistan. He also said the five countries would supply northern Afghanistan with aid.

## 2 hardline Khmer Rouge officials surrender to renegades

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Two of five top hardline Khmer Rouge officials who escaped from their base last week have surrendered to the renegade rebel faction they were fleeing, military officials said Saturday. The officials identified the men as Ny Korn, a senior rebel commander and brother of former Khmer Rouge "minister of defence" Son Sen, and Ta Muth, son-in-law of the guerrilla's feared chief of staff, Ta Mok. But Ieng Vuth, the son of renegade faction leader Ieng Sary, said the second man was not Ta Muth, but rather Ta Tith, the least senior commander of the five escapees. The five, including Nuon Chea, the Khmer Rouge political commissar and Son Sen, the rebels' former "minister of defence," escaped from their base near the Thai border Tuesday as troops loyal to the renegade rebel faction closed in. Ta Tith surrendered Friday and Ny Korn surrendered early Saturday to the rebel faction led by Ieng Sary, Ieng Vuth told AFP by telephone from the renegade faction's headquarters in Phnom Malai. "Ny Korn surrendered because he was tired and ill from running" since the split between Ieng Sary's faction and the hardline central leadership occurred in mid-August, Ieng Vuth said. According to the military officials, Ny Korn surrendered after being surrounded by senior Commander Ei Chhien's men on Cambodian soil. The second man, either Ta Muth or Ta Tith, fled to Thailand but was arrested and sent back into Cambodia where he surrendered, they said. Ei Chhien was not at his base and was unreachable for comment as to whether the men were being treated as prisoners or as new allies, an aide said. The current whereabouts of Nuon Chea and Son Sen and the third man were unknown but there were indications they might be in Thailand and Cambodia's co-premiers had asked Thai authorities to locate, arrest and deport them. All five men, including the two who surrendered, are wanted under two-year-old legislation outlawing the Khmer Rouge. Nuon Chea and Son Sen could also face war crimes and genocide charges for their roles in the Khmer Rouge's 1975-1979 reign of terror, which is held responsible for the deaths of as many as two million Cambodians. Earlier Saturday, First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh told reporters that Thai border authorities had arrested one of the five, but had not identified him. He also said he feared the Thais might not honour a pledge to deport the man if he requested political asylum. There was speculation in Phnom Penh that the prisoner was Nuon Chea, number two in the hardline faction, but this could not be confirmed. It was also unclear whether the prince had been referring to the man who was briefly detained by the Thais before being sent back to Cambodia and surrendering. Ei Chhien's aide said he had heard the prisoner was Nuon Chea, but could offer no independent confirmation. "We heard that Nuon Chea had been arrested by authorities in Thailand, but don't know where or when it happened," the aide said. Prince Ranariddh said despite assurances the Thais would cooperate with a formal request to arrest and deport the men if they were found in Thailand, he feared the Thais might grant asylum to the escapees if they requested it. He recalled that Thailand refused to send back Sin Song, a general involved in a failed 1994 coup attempt, arguing that his was a political case. "I fear that Thailand will do the same for these people," Prince Ranariddh said, noting that Cambodia and Thailand do not have an extradition treaty. Thai officials have said they would cooperate with the request but several, including Foreign Minister Annurudha Viravan, have been quoted as saying that requests for political asylum from the five would be considered.

## Joyous welcome planned for new Kashmir leader

SRINAGAR (R) — A "National Conference Party" Chief Farooq Abdullah returns to a hero's welcome in Srinagar after a landslide poll victory and will seek to defuse separatist tension, party officials said. Early this week, the National Conference swept 57 of the 87 assembly seats in India's northern Jammu and Kashmir state in the first local polls since a separatist revolt broke out in 1990, killing more than 20,000 people in the last seven years. "Dr. Abdullah will receive a rousing reception from senior National Conference members," party spokesman Saifuddin Soz told Reuters. Other members of the largest pro-India party in Kashmir said 5,000 cadres would turn out to receive Dr. Abdullah at Srinagar's airport. A conclave of senior members would later formally elect Dr. Abdullah as the leader of their legislative party Sunday, they said. He is expected to be sworn in as chief minister next Tuesday. Dr. Abdullah will not have much time for celebrations. One of his first tasks will be to deal with thorny separatist sentiment. Dozens of separatist groups fighting for freedom or closer ties to neighbouring Pakistan have already rejected Dr. Abdullah's government. Dr. Abdullah told Reuters in an interview in the Indian capital Wednesday that he was ready to hold talks with the separatist leaders, but would deal with the militants with a firm hand. On Friday the All-Parties Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference rejected the offer.

## Tigers kill 4 soldiers as Sri Lankan minister calls for new jungle war

COLOMBO (AFP) — Tamil guerrillas killed four soldiers and wounded another in a gun battle in Northern Sri Lanka Saturday as a senior minister vowed to mount a fresh jungle war against the rebels, officials said. Gunmen of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) shot dead the troops in the peninsula of Jaffna, during a pre-dawn confrontation, a military official here said. The attack came less than 24 hours after energy Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte announced plans to launch fresh offensives against the Tigers, who lost their final bastion to troops last week. Gen. Ratwatte, who is also the junior defence minister said the guerrillas have been defeated in the final town held by them in the country's north and security forces were now gearing for jungle warfare. He told foreign correspondents here Friday that the army's capture last week of the town of Kilinochchi left the LTTE without a population centre and has forced the Tigers to take to the jungles. "This (war) will now develop into jungle warfare," said Gen. Ratwatte who is a close relative of President Chandrika Kumaratunga. "They (the Tigers) will go into the jungles and we will follow them." The minister said plans were ready to mount a fresh onslaught against the Tigers but declined to give details. The minister said they were also pressing ahead with a major rehabilitation programme to rebuild the battle-scarred northern region, including the peninsula of Jaffna which was taken from the Tigers last year. The supply of building materials and food to the region was hampered because the only land route was still under Tiger control but the army would soon take action to wrest control over the highway, he said. Opening the land route will require security forces to take a 70 kilometre stretch of road, often through wide open terrain and sometimes through thick forest. Army Chief Rohan Daluwatte said the LTTE strength was down to about three to four thousand cadres after a series of military offensives begun in October last year. For their part, the Tigers have admitted losing Kilinochchi, their final bastion, and announced shifting their headquarters to jungles in North-Eastern Sri Lanka. The guerrilla group is leading a protracted campaign for independence in the island's northern and eastern regions where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated.

## Test of time shows some Nobel winners not as worthy as others

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The prestigious Nobel Prize for medicine which will bring honour and fame to one or more scientists when it is announced Monday, has occasionally been bestowed upon those whose pioneering work has later proved questionable. Scientists join economists, writers and peace-makers around the world in dreaming of winning "the prize," awarded each year in the fields of medicine or physiology, economics, physics, chemistry, literature and peace. Only a handful belong to the select club of Nobel laureates. The latest members to join this club will be announced in Stockholm next week, starting with the Nobel Prize for medicine Monday, day and chemistry and physics Wednesday. The peace prize will be announced in Oslo Friday. But among the geniuses and discoveries that have, in the words of Alfred Nobel, "conferred the greatest benefit to mankind," there have also been a few disreputable characters, most of which are found within the field of medicine. For example, no sane psychiatrist today would drill a hole into a patient's skull and cut off the nerve-paths to the brain's frontal lobes in order to cure a psychosis. Yet in 1949, Egas Moniz of Portugal won the Nobel Prize for medicine for developing the lobotomy, an operation he first carried out in 1938. The patients' anxieties were subdued, but they walked around like vacuous zombies and the method was banned once psychopharmacological drugs were developed. The inventor of the insecticide DDT, Swiss chemist Paul Mueller, also received the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1948. The poison, discovered in 1939 and marketed in 1942, was marketed as an ultra-effective insecticide but harmless to humans. DDT did stop an epidemic of typhus fever in Nepal in 1944 when more than one million people were treated with the substance. And malaria was almost eradicated in the tropics. But what people did not know then was that DDT was harmful to birds, mammals and humans. Like most other countries, Sweden, home to the institute which initially honoured the insecticide, banned the use of DDT in the 1970s. Nowadays, the Nobel Committees in the science fields tend to honour research that has stood the test of time, rewarding pioneering work that has proven itself and been corroborated over the years by subsequent studies. Johannes Fibiger of Denmark was given the 1926 Nobel Medicine Prize for successfully developing cancer in laboratory rats with cockroaches and an intestinal worm. But researchers now doubt the validity of his study, as no one has ever been able to repeat the results.

## Burma clamps down on visas to U.S. citizens

RANGOON (R) — Burma said it was clamping down on entry visas to U.S. citizens from Friday in response to an American travel ban on Burmese military government leaders and their families to the United States. The move was announced at a news conference by the foreign minister, U Khin Maung Win. "Except as required by treaty obligations and officials and other supporting staff assigned to the U.S. mission in Myanmar (Burma), the issuance of all types of visas has been suspended to U.S. citizens," a foreign ministry statement said. But it was unclear whether or not it would be a blanket

ban as the statement then gave categories of Americans to whom visas would be withheld. The ministry said visas would not be granted to U.S. citizens "who impeded the process of smooth transition to a multi-party democratic state in the union of Myanmar and members of their families." Visas would also be denied those Americans and their families whom Burma "deemed to have acted or to be acting in a manner detrimental to the interests of the state, including persons interfering in the internal affairs of Myanmar and/or inciting political agitation/disturbances." The Burmese decision was conveyed to the U.S. Charge D'affaires Marilyn Meyers earlier Friday, the ministry official said.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, outraged by the Burmese military government's arrest of hundreds of pro-democracy activists over the last week, signed a proclamation Thursday ordering the action against the Burmese leaders. Burma's ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) detained the activists of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) to prevent a party congress planned between Sept. 27 and 29. It has released some of the detainees but continues to bar access to Suu Kyi's Rangoon home. According to latest official figures Friday, Burma had released 188 of 573 NLD party activists detained last week.

The Burmese foreign ministry accused the United States of disregarding the "true situation" in Burma and said Washington had given "undue and unwarranted pressures" on it. It rejected Mr. Clinton's proclamation as an interference in the internal affairs of Burma. U.S. charges that Burma had failed to engage the democratic opposition of Aung San Suu Kyi's NLD in dialogue or promote democratic changes were also untrue, it added. Burma had taken steps to ensure a smooth transition to multi-party democracy, was holding a national convention with various ethnic groups in the country to formulate a national constitution, it said.



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## Kabul under greater duress

THE CAPTURE of Kabul by Taleban forces more than a week ago did not bring Afghanistan any closer to normality or stability. If anything it brought to the country and its suffering people greater challenges, even troubles. Above all, the Afghan people's most basic human rights suffered the most. Summary executions, denial of a fair trial, torture and disappearances became the rule than the exception in the war-torn country.

For the last 17 years, Afghanistan has been engulfed in a string of mini-wars among different factions competing for power and control. Some of these wars were fought by proxy, conducted on behalf of foreign interests and objectives. Ever since the overthrow of the Moscow-supported government of President Najibullah, at least two major factions have been locked in a vicious cycle of violence that battered the poor country and drove its people into dire living conditions and new heights of despair. The capital Kabul came under repeated attacks and was almost completely destroyed while warlords fought to control it. The overthrow of President Burhanuddin Rabbani by Taleban fighters last week appears to have taken the country further into the abyss, the like of which no other country has witnessed or experienced in contemporary times.

It is not only the fact that women and children rights have been trampled on in the most primitive way but also the other regressions that the new rulers have perpetrated with little or no international outcry. Priding themselves as true Islamists, the new rulers have literally forced people to pray five times a day in utter defiance of the cardinal principle in Islam that proclaims that there is no room for duress in Islam. Under the guise of the Sharia law, the Taleban government has reintroduced hand amputation, summary executions, torture and denial of fair trial on a systematic scale. And while the rights of the Afghan people are systematically trampled on and violated in the most uncivilised manner, some countries have rejoiced over the change in regime. Realpolitik considerations and geopolitical factors have given some powers a cause for comfort. Having a Sunni regime, one theory went, would now make Afghanistan a bulwark against Iranian Shiism. Who cares about democracy? No price, it seems, is high enough to checkmate Tehran even if that entails the enslavement of millions of Afghans.

The United Nations General Assembly has just begun its fifty-first session in New York with a long agenda on human rights abuses worldwide. The least that we could expect from it is to voice the alarm at what is happening in that devastated country. More importantly, an urgent international action is called for including the convening of the U.N. Security Council for that purpose. When collective and individual human rights are violated on such a large scale, international and regional security are necessarily threatened. The council is the most appropriate place to address the violent human rights abuses in Afghanistan just as the U.N. did when it turned its attention to Bosnia and Rwanda. Now is the time to take up the cause on behalf of the Afghan people.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i Saturday said that the Arab-Israeli summit held in Washington under the U.S. auspices was bound to end in failure simply because each party is clinging to its stand and unrelenting in matters of national interest. Fahed Fanek said that, as was expected, Israel still refuses to close the tunnel under the Aqsa Mosque, rejects calls for giving up East Jerusalem to the Arab side and is adamant towards the question of redeployment in Hebron. Thanks to the extremist groups among the Palestinians, who blew up houses in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, the Israelis have elected a hardline politician to lead the extremist Jewish groups and the Likud Party against the Arab national interests, said the writer. He said that the four suicide attacks precipitated the downfall of the Labour Party and its leader who could have acted in the spirit of Oslo in his dealings with the Palestinians. Now that the extremist Palestinian groups have achieved their goal of bringing to power an extremist Jewish leader, they are no more concerned with suicide bomb attacks in Israel and are keeping silent about the events. Indeed, he added, the extremist groups on both sides of the fence have discovered that they have a common goal: ruining the peace process.

AL DUSTOUR daily said in an editorial Saturday that the whole Middle East region is poised on the tip of a volcano that might erupt any minute, and that the peace process is on the verge of collapse. The present relative calm in the Palestinian lands, said the paper, is expected to be followed by the expected storm of violence and counterviolence that will be almost impossible to contain, especially if Israel remains adamant and rejecting Palestinian people's rights. The danger persists no doubt because Israel is not committed to implementing the agreements concluded with the Palestinian leadership, because it continues to wage genocide on the Palestinian population and continues to build settlements on Arab lands, said the daily. So far, the Israeli prime minister has given not a slight indication that he will respect the agreements while the Palestinians, who face repression and injustice, are driven to further desperation, added the paper. It said one will have to wait for the American-sponsored negotiations, starting Sunday, to see if Israel is willing to defuse the tension.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

## Pessimism — a self-fulfilling prophecy

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

BEING DISSATISFIED with the prevailing economic situation is a phenomenon that prevails among the majority of the Jordanian population and, in particular, among businessmen. One wonders whether these negative feelings are justified or not, and whether feeling this way is the result of too high expectations or is caused by the distributions of the profit among too many. Even peace, which was hoped to bring about prosperity, is now blamed for being one of the reasons underlying the current economic stagnation.

For the first time we witness a phenomenon that never occurred in any country: the macro-economic indicators have been giving an encouraging reading for several years in a row, while the micro-economic indicators have been giving negative reading.

Is it possible that the Jordanian economy, as a whole, is doing well and growing at an annual rate of 6 per cent in real terms, while people feel that the economy is in bad shape? Can the country's economy be going in the right direction while the economic players are going astray? It seems that this is quite possible for short terms and

during transitional periods when the economy is being restructured and the method of allocating resources for various purposes is being reoriented. As an example one can point out the tables published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) about the performance of the Jordanian economy. The tables say that Jordan's gross domestic product (GDP) in constant prices grew during the past three years, 1993, 1994 and 1995, at 5.9, 5.9 and 6.4 per cent respectively. However, the IMF admits in another table of the same report that the per capita private consumption during the same three years declined at the rate of 5.6, 6.2 and 1.3 per cent respectively.

In other words, the overall economy grew at respectable rates while the share of the average citizen of private consumption, as a measure of the well-being and high standard of living, decreased steadily. The difference must have gone to compulsory savings, government consumption or repayment of past debts, but the major part was eaten up by the rapid population growth.

Every citizen, whether family man, businessman or

woman, is entitled to feel disappointed and under pressure. He or she has the right to complain if his or her profits decline, but, interestingly, one notices that complaining is also common among successful businessmen whose businesses are expanding and profits increasing. Is it possible to describe the market as in a lull even when the Department of Statistics tells us that imports are running at 25 per cent above the level of last year?

Not feeling good and complaining has become a phenomenon which has a life of its own. It is not always a response to the reality. A foreign report explaining the extremely low prices in the Amman Financial Market (AFM) listed this feeling as a factor hurting the investment climate and causing unjustified postponements of potential investments. In other words, negative feelings among the population in general and businessmen in particular is not only a result but also a cause of the slowdown in economic activity. When it comes to economics, pessimism is a self-fulfilling prophecy.

## As a Jew, I deplore the actions of this Israeli government.

By Gerald Kaufman

THE VIOLENCE and loss of life in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip are the direct responsibility of Israel's right-wing Likud government.

Yes, of course it can be said that the Palestinians have overreacted to the opening by the Israeli authorities of a tunnel for tourists leading to the holy mountain in Jerusalem on which one of Islam's most sacred shrines is situated. But that overreaction is due to the Palestinians' frustration with the refusal of the Likud's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to maintain the implementation of the Oslo peace accords.

Those accords were signed by Netanyahu's two Labour predecessors as prime minister, the assassinated Yitzhak Rabin and his successor, Shimon Peres, whom Netanyahu defeated by a wafer-thin majority in last May's election. After a long period in which they used terrorism to advance their cause, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) abandoned violence and negotiated with Israel. Rabin, who

loathed the PLO and its chairman, Yasser Arafat, was statesman enough to understand his country's interests were best served by ridding Israel of the incursion of the Arab-populated occupied territories and taking the risky path of peace.

Tragically, Rabin died for his beliefs at the hands of a Jewish fanatic who was opposed to the peace process. That fanatic's bullets decided the result of the May election. Popular Rabin would have won. Peres, a great fighter for peace but lacking the essential trust of a sufficient number of the Israeli people, lost by a few thousand votes.

So Netanyahu, a slick front man with not very much behind his podgy good looks, took over. He and his Likud Party had been opposed to the Oslo agreements. They were against the Rabin-Peres policy of exchanging land for peace. Instead, Israel would give up nothing, and the Palestinians would have to surrender their aspirations to rule themselves, instead living under an occupying power deprived of civil rights or even guaranteed human rights.

Bomb outrages by the Hamas gang of Muslim fundamentalists helped swing the election against Labour. Netanyahu persuaded enough of the Israeli people that he would make security his priority. Too many Israelis fell for Mr. Netanyahu's glib words. Last week's slaughter is the result many of us have feared since the Israeli election results.

But why should we worry? Apart from our human sympathy, is this turmoil anything to do with us?

The answer has to be yes. For the Middle East is the fulcrum of the world's concerns, the location of the most extensive oil reserves on earth. The world economy has still not recovered from the shock increase in oil prices which was the retaliation of Arab countries against the Western world at the time of the Yom Kippur war in 1973.

Twice since 1948 the world has been on the brink of international conflict because of those Middle Eastern wars. Twice, the rulers of Soviet Russia threatened the Americans that they would intervene against Israel if those wars

were not speedily ended. Yes, but surely we do not have to worry about an East-West conflict any more? Russia, even though it possesses nuclear weapons, has no interest in getting involved in conflict over the Middle East.

But the problem is that it is not only Russia and America which possess nuclear weapons. Israel possesses a nuclear capability, too, however, strenuously its government denies it. A new conflict between Israel and its neighbours might turn into a nuclear conflict and that would affect the whole planet.

The previous Israeli wars were fought with planes and tanks. The next one, if it should come, will be a missile war — and the missiles could be tipped with nuclear warheads.

So the world has a vital interest in the riots and shooting which have been taking place this past week. What should be done?

The West has generally been tender with Israel. Justified guilt at the Holocaust has led to Israel regularly being given the benefit of the doubt.

As a Jew, a Zionist and a member of a family which

lost many kinsfolk in the Holocaust, I have shared the view that the world owes a debt to the Jews and therefore to Israel.

But I believe that, when the Israeli voters threw out a government dedicated to peace and installed Netanyahu, they opted to go it alone.

When Netanyahu's predecessor, Yitzhak Shamir, was prime minister before Rabin defeated him in 1992, Shamir, too, refused to become involved in peace talks and defied U.S. requests to talk to the Palestinians.

I recommended to President Reagan's national security adviser that economic sanctions should be imposed upon Israel unless it was willing to talk peace with the Palestinians. Reagan's man said that was not possible. There followed the intifada, the Palestinian uprising, which focused world attention on

the Palestinians' grievances.

Reagan's successor, President Bush, imposed economic sanctions on Israel by withholding \$7.5 billion worth of loan guarantees needed to settle Russian immigrants in Israel.

Shamir was forced to the peace table in Madrid. What Bush did in 1992 the West should do now. The Oslo accords are not simply a deal between Israel and the Palestinians. They are international agreements, sealed by a hand-shake on the White House lawn.

Netanyahu still needs international aid. He should be told such aid will not be forthcoming until he both talks peace and implements peace. The stakes are far too high for us all, and are getting higher all the time.

Daily Mail

## LETTERS

## Riding the waves

To the Editor:

ORGANISED BY a local hotel company, the train ride is an activity you can enjoy. Comfortably seated in a 19-something-model train compartment, one is taken from the railway station in Mahatta through the south eastern suburbs of Amman, ending south of the airport, in about two and a half hours.

During the ride, one gets to see a good variety of scenery of our country as well as various districts of the capital and its environs, among whom those of the most needy.

People living in these quarters, when I was riding the train, were stunned to see the train passing in front of them with foreign-looking people with big smiles on their faces. And although they seemed quite interesting and interested (they were waving and smiling back), this is surely not the image we would want to promote for Jordan's tourists (there were many tourists with us).

Being Jordanian, it depresses me to be constantly reminded of the huge gap between our socio-economic classes. Two economic extremes were facing each other. On the one hand, the watching audience were people living under the poverty line; people who have had their economic well-being seriously damaged due to such things as the increase in bread prices, increase in the price of water, electricity, etc. On the other hand, the train riders were the wealthy bunch who hardly knew that prices of bread actually increased (not due to lack of knowledge, but due to our prosperous lifestyles in which bread does not constitute a big percentage of our expenditures).

Most tourists, as I am sure, were surprised to know such poverty existed in Jordan (recently dubbed the Singapore of the Middle East).

And there is another side to the story: when representatives of international aid agencies, such as, the World Bank, Germany's KfW, delegates of the United Nations, or any other rich-country personnel come to Jordan with the aim of promoting economic growth, what kind of images do we show? A newly paved highway road? The palaces of west Amman? Or the higher-than-Germany per capita Mercedes cars?

Apparently we are giving the right image to the wrong people.

I realise it will not do much for Jordan's pride to be showing people coming to Jordan to help us the sad reality of our economic prosperity (or lack of it), but this is what should be done: to tourists who come here to enjoy themselves, I would recommend they see the happy 5 per cent of our people. To anyone who comes here with the aim, either directly or indirectly, of promoting economic growth, I would recommend they see the not-so-happy 95 per cent.

In the meantime, Jordanians can still enjoy their upcoming train rides.

Ramiz T. Bataresh,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

The Guardian



# Features

## Cultural peace — a UNESCO way of solving world conflicts

By Adnan Nasrawin

THE WORLD today faces various new challenges, with new types of conflict in the form of ideological, racial, religious, social and economic wars, springing up everywhere.

Terrorism and violence are escalating, as do unemployment, hate and fundamentalism worldwide. These phenomena hamper all sort of growth while the international diplomacy seems incapable of finding a reasonable solution to these growing ills.

The global crisis that the world witnessed in recent years, has been illustrated and emphasised in a statistical study published recently by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The study shows that in the last three decades, the world has experienced 82 global conflicts, of which 79 were civil wars. They left victims on both sides of the conflict, of which 90 per cent were usually innocent civilians and children. Such was the case in ex-Yugoslavia, Somalia, Algeria, Rwanda and Sudan.

In view of these realities,



Federico Mayor

UNESCO has called for a new approach in tackling global conflicts: the notion of "cultural peace" between all nations and races has thus been adopted.

The director general of the UNESCO, Federico Mayor, stressed the need for spreading this adopted UNESCO concept in order to establish, deepen and strengthen the cultural

peace among all nations.

Mr. Mayor said: "Factual peace cannot be achieved unless it is based on virtues of justice, freedom, amity and cooperation in the sense of mental and cultural exchange between all nations and respecting human rights and sharing information in a free way."

The director general stressed the fact that

UNESCO cannot interfere, even with a mediating role, in any political activity in order to implement cultural peace, but that the organisation is implementing its original policy, established 50 years ago and based on providing a proper framework and environment for representatives of all countries to meet, discuss and exchange ideas and cultural views on all issues. This is actually the tenet of the original charter of the UNESCO which states that "wars are created by human minds and that is why castles of peace should be built in human minds."

France's ex-representative at the UNESCO, Hervé Bourges, stressed the importance of the global role of the organisation, more than of any other United Nations organisations.

He said: "It is well known that the United Nations depends in its discussions and decisions, in a direct way, on the principle of political power similar to other affiliated organisations of the United Nations in the sense that it depends on technical speciality. In this manner, it is then possible for UNESCO to facili-

tate free discussions among all individuals and representatives of all nations to provide coherence in the spiritual, educational, cultural, knowledge and future prospects."

UNESCO thus remains unique in providing a framework for all nations to deliberate their wishes and hopes and in strengthening and deepening global cultural channels that cater for peace; hence, building the right cultural peace is a prerequisite for a healthy society.

It is worth remembering that UNESCO cooperates with 140 organisations of various nature, governmental, regional and governmental or non-governmental, which have their own operating system and do not necessarily follow the United Nations' policies.

UNESCO activities are numerous. Presently UNESCO, together with six other consultant organisations affiliated to the United Nations, is preparing special educational programmes in an attempt to deter the spreading of AIDS around the world.

It also participates in organising and granting the

"Felix Hophel" (in remembrance of the late president of the Ivory Coast) annual prize which is granted to individuals or institutions that participate, in a distinguished manner, in helping establish peace in the world.

UNESCO's strategy in catering for cultural peace in the Arab World, especially in those countries where crisis eventually leads to hostilities and wars, has a distinguished, important role.

**UNESCO and Palestine:**

Since the launching of the Arab-Israeli peace treaty in the Middle East UNESCO has been fully involved in the fields of education, culture, science, technology and communications, guiding and helping the Palestinians rebuild their infrastructure and national institutions.

Thus, in the last two years or so, the organisation has provided guidance and help in accomplishing various projects in Palestine. Among them were the repair and refurbishment of 17 schools in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and the establishment of pro-

grammes to upgrade higher education standards in the Palestinian universities, as well as financing various projects and programmes to sustain the historical places and antiquities of Palestine. This was achieved by the establishment of a Palestinian centre to control the developments in different fields, like communications, information, education, culture and science.

**UNESCO and Sudan:**

UNESCO has patronised a cultural peace conference in Khartoum where 11 representatives from African countries, in addition to Sudanese representatives from the government and the opposition party, took part. At the meeting, Mr. Mayor called for all parties in conflict in southern Sudan to cease war and revert to a peaceful settlement. The matter was followed up by a peace seminar in the Dutch capital, Amsterdam, whose final communiqué emphasised the need for both parties in conflict in Sudan to pursue peaceful discussions, based on democratic principles, to achieve justice, equality and freedom.

The conflict in Sudan left 50,000 dead and tens of thousands homeless.

**UNESCO and Algeria:**

Denouncing violence in Algeria, UNESCO recently published a book in three languages, Arabic, English and French, entitled "Violence".

In the preface, the book denounced violence and states: "UNESCO would like, through the words of this book, to denounce violence, defend forgiveness and invite those who have a hand in the Algerian conflict to work for and spread cultural peace. With no exception, this book is directed towards all those who participate and encourage violence and assassinations, and UNESCO does not find or support any excuse to all this wasted violence which only leads to killing and hate and does not solve any problem."

The writer is a Jordanian journalist working in Paris and at the UNESCO. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

## Pollution widespread throughout Asia

By Uday Khandeparkar  
Reuters

**MANILA** — Every year before the monsoon comes, hundreds of Filipinos risk their lives to eat mussels, a delicacy eaten cooked, salted or even raw.

"Eating talong (mussels) is suicide," warned the Philippine daily Inquirer newspaper about the mussels contaminated by pollution in Manila Bay.

Not all heeded it. By the third week of June, 12 people had died and 106 become sick as a result of eating mussels.

"There is no cure for pig headedness," said another newspaper lamenting that people would not eat mussels despite warnings and a government ban on selling them.

Getting injured to the dan-

gers of pollution is easy in Manila and other Asian cities where dirty air and water are a part of daily life.

Poisoned shellfish have become a seasonal occurrence in the Philippines since 1983 and now get little media attention, except when people die of it.

Marine pollution has affected other Asian regions as well.

Around Hong Kong, the waters are polluted not just by urban waste but by fishermen.

These are fishermen who catch fish by stunning them with a good squirt of cyanide. The fish is edible because cyanide remains in the flesh for a short time but it kills the reef by allowing bacteria and algae to set in.

Before cyanide fishing came into vogue, Hong Kong fleets used dynamite

to blow the fish out of water.

"Hong Kong is beautiful, just don't breathe the air," said a visitor to the territory, voicing a feeling that may also exist in relatively clean Sydney where officials said recently that smog levels were well above public health standards.

A health department report released last month said nearly 400 Sydneysiders, and possibly 1,000 Australians nationwide died prematurely each year, simply by breathing city air.

Talk of pollution-linked illnesses is now emerging in China as well. In a rare admission last month, the annual report of the National Environmental Protection Agency said the situation had deteriorated last year.

The agency's Director Xie Zhenhua said the deterioration of the environment was responsible for an increase in malignant tumours and respiratory diseases in both urban and rural areas.

Beijing has begun cracking down on offenders. Recently, the Chinese authorities detained six factory managers for reopening state paper mills that courts had closed for causing pollution.

"Making profits at the expense of other people's health is not allowed," said a local environmental official.

But in the poorest Asian countries, people and governments are not aware of the levels of pollution they are facing.

Asif Shujat, director general of Pakistan's environ-

mental protection agency, told Reuters: "We do not have ambient air standards. We do not have a continuous monitoring network because it is very expensive."

"In some areas, the lead content is very high, seven times higher than the maximum recommended by the world health organisation," he said.

In neighbouring India, an economic reform programme launched in 1991 has catalysed industry as well as pollution.

The country's commercial capital, Bombay, has sometimes been called slumby, a reference to it being home to Asia's largest slum where highly polluting businesses like leather tanning and textile dyeing churn out toxins by the tonne.

A lack of awareness of the

dangers of pollution prevents the illiterate from being environment-friendly. The educated are concerned but after years of poverty, savouring the benefits of wealth are more important than being green.

Restricting car usage, for instance, is difficult in India because a car is a status symbol.

In the Thai capital, Bangkok, notorious for its traffic jams and smog, officials faced a similar problem and a government scheme to influence people into taking buses to work failed.

Flouting the rules is a major problem in many Asian countries.

Between 1990 and 1995, China passed 14 environmental laws, 20 administrative rules and more than 350 environmental stan-

dards. Enforcing them is proving difficult.

"All that would happen is the bribe would go up," said a Pakistani truck operator when he heard of Islamabad's new pollution laws. "Most of my trucks will fail the test."

Indonesia has tried to overcome the problem by holding educational sessions on environment for the police. Of 104 cases which have surfaced since Jakarta passed the environmental law in 1982, many are still under investigation, according to national police chief Dito Wibisono.

But in the richer part of Asia, awareness of pollution is high. In May, about 100 asthmatics sued seven Japanese automakers saying their health suffered because they and authori-

ties did not take measures to prevent air pollution.

Squeaky clean Singapore is terrified of pollution.

A concerned Singaporean complained in a letter to the Straits Times newspaper that the holding of wakes for the dead was causing "a subtle form of environmental pollution."

Mourners enjoyed meals cooked and served when decay of the corpse has set in, he said.

"There should be some form of refrigeration... To accommodate people who want to pay their last respects to the departed beyond an accepted period of perishability," he said.

## France presses EU to secure active role in Middle East peace process

(Continued from page 1)

reforming the EU so it can take in a dozen or so newcomers over the next decade.

The EU leaders, seeking to reinvestigate talks on the bloc's future, pledged again on Saturday to complete a new treaty by the middle of next year and rejected any idea of scaling back its scope.

The summit was dominated by fears among leaders that their plans for reforming the bloc to accept new countries from Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean were on shaky ground.

The leaders emerged from an afternoon of discussions confirming that they want the talks, known formally as the Inter-Governmental Conference (IGC), to finish by June 1997 and to be substantial.

"There was agreement...to reaffirm and keep to the timetable. There was also a need, generally expressed, to reaffirm the ambitions of the IGC," EU president Ireland's govern-

ment spokesman said.

Leaders were at pains to deny they were scaling down their ambitions, after speculation prompted by German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's comments that more reforms would be needed to EU institutions even after the current treaty talks.

"We have to get the EU ready for enlargement. This won't be possible without getting results at the IGC," German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel told reporters. But Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky noted that what the IGC achieved was more important than when it finished.

"June 1997 is a desirable and realistic target but not at the cost of substance," he told reporters.

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton earlier had told his colleagues they must not put off tough decisions on the bloc's future in the hope that they can settle them more easily later on.

"If it's difficult to get agreement among 15 heads of government on a treaty to deal with very difficult and major problems, obvi-

ously if we try to do it later on, when we have enlarged and are more than 20 members, it will be even more difficult," he said.

Many countries nonetheless still believe the IGC will not achieve much until after Britain's elections, which must be held by May next year.

British Prime Minister John Major's conservative government is opposed to many of the changes being floated at the IGC, notably anything that smacks of a loss of sovereignty.

At the summit, Mr. Major was said to be furious about comments from European Parliament President Klaus Haensch that Britain was out of step with Europe and had conducted blackmail during the "beef war" over mad cow disease earlier this year.

Three socialist leaders — Mr. Vranitzky, Portugal's Antonio Guterres and the Netherlands' Wim Kok — also angered Mr. Major last week by endorsing British opposition leader Tony Blair.

## Palestinians, Israelis open crucial talks today

(Continued from page 1)

part. Mr. Christopher was expected to arrive in the region early on Sunday and meet separately with Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat before the talks begin.

On the ground, top Israeli and Palestinian officers toured the Gaza Strip together on Friday trying to forge a new working relationship after pointing their guns at one another in the clashes but the two sides quickly locked horns in a dispute over turf.

Israel announced after the joint tour that Palestinians had agreed to establish 300-metre-deep buffer zones around Israeli outposts in the Gaza Strip which demonstrators would be barred from entering.

A Palestinian security chief said Israel was lying. "There is no buffer zone. These are Israeli lies and Israeli illusions. This matter is totally rejected," said Major Abdul Razek Al Majaydeh, general-director of Palestinian security forces in Gaza.

Joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols have ground to a halt in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in areas where

Jewish settlements and Israeli soldiers remain pending a final accord. But a Palestinian security official in Jenin said on Friday joint patrols would resume in the West Bank town on Sunday.

The Palestinians have put their stone-throwing war against the Israelis on hold pending the talks. The negotiations are open-ended but Palestinian spokesmen have warned that if they fail, more violence could break out, and Israeli officials say they are taking the warning seriously.

The Israelis have reciprocated the lull by withdrawing some of the tanks it moved to hills overlooking West Bank towns following the gunbattles, but they remain close by. Israel has lifted its blockade of Bethlehem and Jenin, and has indicated that other West Bank towns will get similar relief if the quiet continues.

The Palestinians are demanding that Mr. Netanyahu set a date for the long-delayed withdrawal of Israeli troops from most of Hebron.

Israel will demand that the Palestinian police who take over Hebron carry pis-

tois, not automatic rifles, army radio reported Saturday. The Palestinians have refused to renegotiate the arrangements agreed upon with the previous Labour government.

In the Washington talks Mr. Netanyahu refused to give a date for the redeployment.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Friday that Mr. Christopher wants quick results.

"We hope that these talks will be conducted with a great deal of urgency, with cooperation on both sides, and that we'll see results as soon as that is possible," Mr. Burns said.

Meanwhile, Hebron spent its 10th day under a curfew imposed after the fighting and continued through the Jewish festival of Sukkot ending Saturday night.

About 50 Israeli peace activists showed Hebron Saturday to show solidarity with its 120,000 Palestinians.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip were largely quiet Saturday, although Israeli troops used tear-gas in the Al Aroub refugee camp near Hebron against stone-throwing youths.

## Strength will not bring security—Mubarak

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Mubarak warned that Mideast peace could not be achieved "in the absence of commitment to the correct guidelines... of the Madrid conference." He referred to the 1991 meeting in Spain that opened the current peace process on the basis of Israel ceding land in exchange for peace.

The Egyptian leader also took a jab at Mr. Netanyahu's concern over Egypt's 10-day military manoeuvres in the Sinai peninsula last month. Touted as the largest ever, the exercises involved 35,000 soldiers and involved crossing the Suez Canal and freeing a besieged canal city, reminiscent of the 1973 war.

Mr. Mubarak praised the army for its performance during the Badr manoeuvres and said that a strong Egyptian army was a necessity if peace and stability were to be maintained in the Middle East.

The volatile region needs "a sufficient defence force that allows Egypt to perform its vital role which no one can detract from, or be suspicious of," Mr. Mubarak said.

"We hope that the October war is the last because wars spell destruction... But peace is not made nor does its roots flourish in the absence of the principles of equality that have been drafted by the international community," he said.

he said.

"We are living in a region that is still liable to a lot of dangers that subject it to a lot of threats... It is a kind of self-delusion to rely on good intentions," Mr. Mubarak said.

"History has taught Egypt to maintain a strong and able army — not for making war or for aggression but to ensure peace and stability."

"Egypt is the cornerstone of regional stability and its security is ransom to Egypt's ability to protect itself... We need a strong defence force that enables us to fulfil this vital role," he added.

Egyptian Defence Minister Mohammad Tantawi said his forces could deal with an Israeli attack using nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction.

Israeli media said last month Mr. Netanyahu's defence team had been debating the significance of the recent Egyptian exercises, the largest since 1993.

Mr. Mubarak also said he hoped there would be significant progress in peace negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel before an economic summit scheduled for November in Cairo which aims at including Israel in the regional economy.

"Real movement in the peace track... revives hope of the people in the region and sets the stage for real regional cooperation," he said.

## Lese majeste case deferred until Thursday

(Continued from page 12)

ly surrendered to the authorities on Thursday accompanied by his lawyers and Deputy Khalil Haddadin (Amman).

Several journalists face charges stemming from their coverage of the unrest in the south, but most of them involve alleged violations of the Press and Publi-

cations Law. Others are related to charges of direct involvement in inciting the unrest and in violent rampages against public and private property.

Four journalists from Al Bilad weekly face charges of violating the Press and Publications Law. The weekly is accused of carrying "unfounded and inaccurate reports that instigate

public passion." They will be tried by a special court that deals with violations of the press law.

Reporter Fuad Hussein of Al Aswaq, who remains in detention, faces charges of instigating sedition. It is not known when Mr. Hussein, who was arrested on Aug. 19, will be put on trial.

Mr. Hussein, known to be

a pro-Iraq Baath Party activist, is a member of the executive council of the Jordan Press Association, and head of its freedoms committee.

Osama Rantissi, chief editor of Al Ahali, faces charges of violating the Press and Publications Law. Al Ahali is the mouthpiece of the Jordan People's Democratic Party. Several

members of the party are among those expected to go on trial on charges of instigating/direct involvement in the southern riots.

Hilmi Al Asmar, chief editor of Al Sabeel, the weekly of the mainstream Muslim Brotherhood movement, was released last week after several days of detention after Al Sabeel published a report of

alleged torture of an Islamist activist in detention.

The government denied the report, describing it as totally baseless and aimed at undermining the credibility of the executive authority. Officials said Mr. Asmar was released on bail pending trial, but the journalist maintained that he was freed unconditionally.



## U.S. lowers trade barriers on Palestinian products

CHAUTAUQUA, New York (AFP) — The United States has lowered trade barriers on all products imported from the Gaza Strip and West Bank in an effort to spur economic development in Palestinian-held territories.

The trade initiative, giving President Bill Clinton the authority to provide duty-free treatment to Gaza Strip and West Bank products, "provides tangible U.S. support for the peace process and promotes greater economic cooperation among Israel, Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinian National Authority," the White House said in a statement issued here.

The measure, included in a bill Mr. Clinton has signed into law, will put Palestinian exports on an equal footing with Israeli products.

"This new trade initiative reflects the continuing commitment of the United States to help open new economic opportunities for the Palestinian people, a vital element of the declaration of principles signed at the White House in Sep-

tember 1993," the statement added.

The office of the U.S. trade representative said in a statement that "products of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and of industrial zones established on the borders of Israel and Jordan and Israel and Egypt will enjoy duty-free entry into the United States, treatment identical to that currently provided products of Israel under the Israel-U.S. free trade agreement."

In exchange for the new measure, the Palestinian National Authority pledged to lift trade barriers on U.S. imports and the Palestinians "will support all efforts to end the Arab League boycott of Israel in all its respects," the White House said.

Meanwhile, European Union (EU) foreign ministers have moved to boost the autonomy of the Palestinian territories, issuing a green light for the European Commission to negotiate an accord to increase trade and political ties.

The proposed accord mirrors similar deals the EU has already concluded with

Israel, Morocco and Tunisia as part of its strategy of creating a vast Euro-Mediterranean area of free trade and political cooperation.

"This will reinforce the message that the EU sees the Palestinians as full partners in the emerging Euro-Mediterranean zone," a commission spokesman said.

Because the Palestinian authorities have no international legal status, the accord will be formally concluded between the EU and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

As well as increasing the access of Palestinian products to European markets, the new accord will also provide for increased aid to the territories.

Since 1993, the EU has spent 320 million ECUs (\$416 million) in aid in the Palestinian territories. The commission has repeatedly expressed concern that Israel's closures of the territories has resulted in the aid being used for emergency supplies rather than to fund educational, medical and infrastructural projects.

## IMF calls for drastic labour-market reform in European states

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has called for drastic reform in Europe's labour market, saying high unemployment rates were aggravating budget deficits.

The overall unemployment rate in the European Union this year is 11.4 per cent, up 0.2 per cent from 1995, the IMF said in its semi-annual World Economic Outlook report.

Among the Group of Seven industrialised nations, France has the highest unemployment rate — 12.4 per cent in 1996 and a predicted 12.1 per cent for 1997, followed by Italy (12.2 and 11.5 per cent) and Germany (10.3 and 10 per cent).

The IMF traced nearly 80 per cent of all unemployment in Europe to structural causes which cannot be absorbed even by strong economic growth.

Without widespread reforms, there is a real risk that unemployment will continue to rise in Europe, the report said.

The unemployment rate in Europe "represents a

considerable underutilisation of labour resources, which has reduced potential output and exacerbated budgetary pressures," the IMF said.

"In many countries there is great reluctance to modify labour market regulations, benefits and privileges that are widely perceived to be social achievements but which contribute to persistently high unemployment and social exclusion by keeping labour costs above warranted levels for low-productivity workers and by reducing incentives to work and create jobs," the IMF said.

The report accuses European politicians of being excessively timid in managing the issue, and recommends lower unemployment benefits over shorter periods, with stricter standards for applicants.

The IMF also proposes cutting social security deductions for low-wage workers, lowering the minimum wage, revising job-security legislation and linking salaries to job performance.

## Morocco draws bleak rural picture, sets strategies

RABAT (R) — In a critical look at itself, Morocco has drawn a bleak picture of life for its rural people, especially women, and set priorities to tackle key problems in economic and social development during the next five years.

A government report, drawn up with the United Nations, says that since the successes of 1983-1990 the pursuit of growth and efforts to achieve economic balances have run out of steam.

"Macroeconomic indicators have deteriorated, growth has been insufficiently strong to improve employment and cut the jobless rate, alleviation of poverty has been weakened through recurrent droughts and social indicators remain below the average achieved by some countries with intermediate incomes," it says.

Morocco's gross domestic product is expected to grow by about 11 per cent this year, to around 330 billion dirhams (\$39 billion), after falling 7.6 per cent last year through a catastrophic drought. The unemployment rate is officially 16 per cent but opposition unions say it is about 23 per cent.

The report, "Note of National Strategy" for 1996-2000, calls for:

— Diversifying national production, especially because of the way weather affects the all-important

farm sector.

— Making greater efforts with national savings because of weak investments.

— Improving productivity by streamlining manning levels in the 10-million strong workforce.

It seeks rapidly increased exports to fuel investment, particularly by promoting private enterprise to become the main engine for free-market economic growth.

It also wants to boost tourism, which after expatriate remittances is Morocco's second biggest foreign currency earner — worth \$500 million in the first five months of 1996.

Morocco, whose main exports are farm products, phosphates, leather and textiles, must also open its export economy to encourage overseas investors to move in, cut its public deficit, master inflation — running at 3.8 per cent last June — and aim for higher reserves and a stable currency.

"These options suppose that the state disengages itself from economic activities where the private sector can be competitive and refocuses its role on essential missions," the report says.

Morocco already has a programme to privatise 114 firms by the end of 1998. It has floated more than 40 since 1993.

## S. Arabia slashing current account deficit — officials, bankers

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Saudi Arabia's current-account deficit is projected to sink even lower in 1996 after dropping over the past few years, officials and bankers have said.

From about \$9.1 billion in 1994, the deficit shrank to nearly \$5.5 billion in 1995 and it could dip to \$4.3 billion in 1996.

"This means the Saudi current-account deficit will improve by around 21 per cent in 1996 over the previous year," the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) said in its quarterly report on member states.

The current account covers the difference between the inflow and outflow of goods, services and cash remittances in a certain period of time.

But bankers in the kingdom said they expected the deficit to be even lower by the end of 1996, noting that the AMF report could have been prepared before crude prices surged by more than

\$3 in the past few weeks as a result of the U.S.-Iraq crisis.

The price of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC's) basket of seven crudes averaged about \$18 in the first half of 1996 but by Sept. 12, it reached \$19.17, the highest average price since the oil boom of the early 1980s.

"The deficit in the Saudi current account could go below \$4 billion as oil prices are forecast to remain strong during the last quarter while there was no sharp increase in imports," a Riyadh-based banker said.

AMF figures showed Saudi exports were projected to grow by about 3.8 per cent to \$46.9 billion in 1996 while imports will likely rise by 4.7 per cent to nearly \$22.1 billion.

This will create a trade surplus of \$24.8 billion, which will be reflected in the current account.

Saudi Arabia, the world's

largest oil producer and exporter, has been undergoing reforms to revive its economy and tackle a persistent budget deficit. They include spending cuts, privatisations and investment law improvements.

A decline in oil prices after the end of the Gulf war and huge payments for the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi invasion forces sapped the Gulf kingdom's coffers and widened its budget deficit to its highest ever level, at \$31.6 billion. The current account also recorded its worst gap of \$27.6 billion, nearly 24 per cent of the gross domestic product.

Experts said tackling the deficit in the budget and the current account was essential for the success of economic reforms.

"Economic success is judged mainly by the country's ability to control its budget deficit and the balance of payment," an economic expert said.

Countries with a persis-

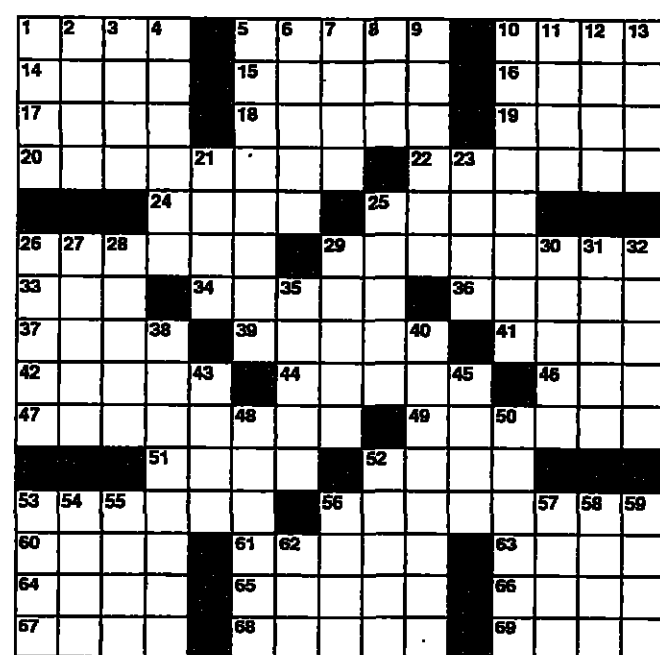
tent account deficit are advised by the International Monetary Fund and other institutions to boost exports and limit imports. Apart from oil, Saudi Arabia has sought to increase other exports by expanding petrochemical production and light industrial products. But remittances by foreign workers remained relatively high as they account for a large part of its workforce of around five million.

Given its heavy reliance on oil-export earnings, price changes have a direct impact on its economy, which grew by around 4.2 per cent in nominal terms in 1995, nearly triple the growth rate in 1994.

The AMF, the Arab League's main financial organisation, said growth was projected to reach 6.2 per cent in 1996 due to higher oil prices and an upturn in the banking and industrial sectors.

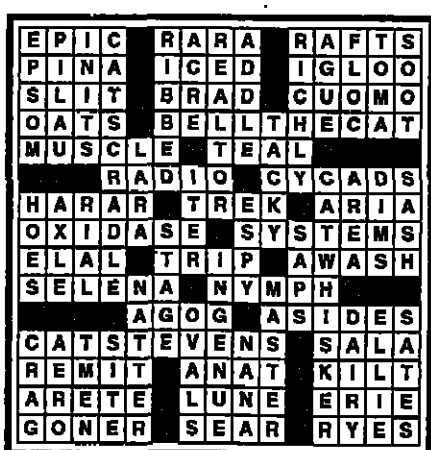
## THE Daily Crossword by Sefton Boyars

ACROSS  
1 Cried  
5 Skill  
10 Novice  
14 Winglike  
15 Respect  
16 Be in charge  
17 "Pretty Woman" star  
18 One of Houston nine  
19 NY city  
20 — Saint (Grant co-star)  
22 Grant's ghostly movie  
24 Arabian sultanate  
25 — she blows!  
26 Looked fiercely  
28 Most effusive  
33 — Roy!  
34 Passover dinner  
36 Italian city  
37 Declare openly  
39 Barrier or boom  
41 Revise copy  
42 Symbol of valor  
44 Second planet  
46 Netherlands commune  
47 Musical ingredient  
49 — the nub  
51 Tree knot  
52 Incline  
53 "His Girl" (Grant film)  
56 Grant film  
60 Italian beach resort  
61 Dirt  
63 Colt's mom  
64 Image  
65 Resides  
66 Circular cheese  
67 Strike repeatedly  
68 Signs  
69 Late show host



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DOWN  
1 Pay  
2 Hgt.  
3 Yugoslavian money  
4 Quiver  
5 Party game  
6 Varnish  
7 Before: pref.  
8 In favor of  
9 Pledges, old style  
10 — and the Passion! (Grant movie)  
11 Squeal  
12 Ruse  
13 Aroma  
14 IA city  
15 Luau location  
16 City on the Po  
17 Mother's father, familiarly  
18 Paramour  
19 Hereditary factors  
20 Sea duck  
21 Sarcastic  
22 Heads: Fr.  
23 White cliffs place  
24 — Run! (Grant film)  
25 Toss  
26 Paddy plant  
27 False god  
28 Yield  
29 FL county  
30 Persian Gulf land  
31 Verne captain  
32 Lip



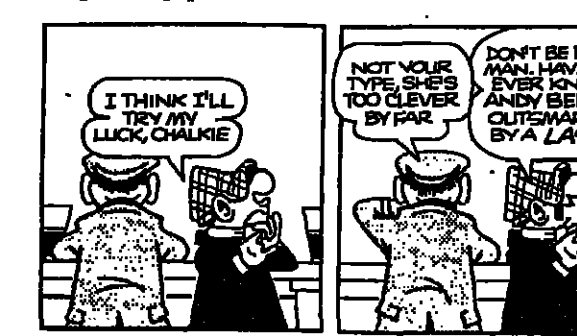
## THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



## Peanuts



## Andy Capp

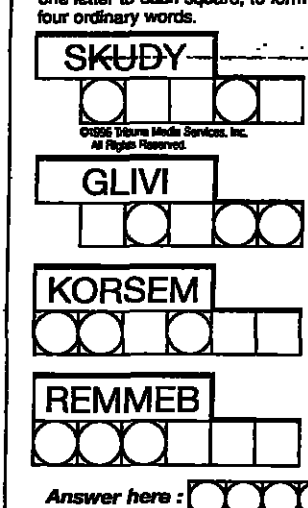


## Mutt'n' Jeff



## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

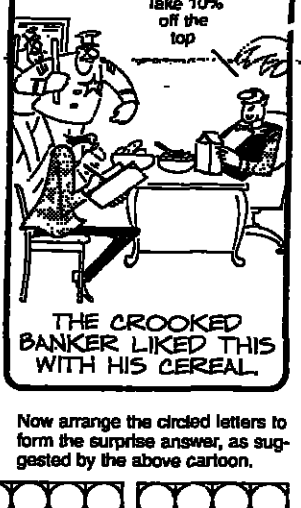


Answer here: \_\_\_\_\_ (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: HOVEL CLEFT BEWARE SUBTLY  
Answer: He described his wife's new hairstyle as — SHEAR FOLLY

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Harriet Arnold and Milton Argentin



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

## BY BUD FISHER



## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You at this time understand how a new set-up with your friends can prove advantageous to your career activities. Study all these angles tonight and construct some course of action which will be quite beneficial to you.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 21) Plan any changes you want to make today which will improve your position both in personal and business life. Later this evening can be quite beneficial if you will discuss your ideas with a bigwig and gain the insight you need.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Private affairs don't seem to work out right today, so seek out other methods of operation and stick to your decision. Make a new plan later this evening with your mate and achieve happiness in each other's company.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Revise your daily routines today so that you get more benefits from your efforts. Plan wisely whatever your career activities are to make the best from every opportunity. Later this evening meet with close friends good times.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Study how best today to arrange your affairs at home and outside so make the best of every opportunity. Being very devoted to your mate is wise at this time so do whatever he or she asks and gain great harmony there.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Whittle your imaginative ideas down today to a workable level so that you can handle every situation which is present. Gain the know-how you need and be happy in developing a plan of action for your success.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Know what your responsibilities to others are today and how best to discharge them to achieve every opportunity. Listen to your mate's wants and decide on some appropriate course of action to get your goals.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) If you want to solve a difficulty with one who is as self-opinionated as you today, you will have to compromise and meet this person half way. Later this evening will be good for discussions about career activities which are ahead.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Find a better way to do your career activities today so that you get rid of a source of concern. Entertain tonight with close friends and fellow associates and thereby you can make the effort to gain success and prestige.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Plan time today for deciding which friends you want to see in the days ahead, however be with a bosom pal tonight and decide on what course of action you intend to pursue for you to achieve success in your career activities.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Try not to disagree today about some outside affair at home which may not be relevant to any situation present currently. This may bring more than you bargained for, so be prepared to handle any concerns which come up.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Enlarge your vision today and get into more worthwhile activities so that you can become more successful. Later this evening can be quite productive if you do consult with a bigwig and get his or her advice.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline



**WASHINGTON (AFP) —** The net flow of private capital in emerging markets will hit a record \$225 billion in 1996, compared with \$208 billion last year, according to figures published by the Institute of International Finance (IIF). The IIF, a group of large

Mr. Dallarà also said that the evolution of international finance renders useless the London Club, created in the 1980s by private lenders for developing countries confronted with a debt crisis.

by Tayebat for Touristic and Real Estate Investments, is expected to be finished by the beginning of November and is scheduled to open its doors in March 1997. Nadine Kharoba the company's marketing coordinator told the Jordan Times.

The new market is certified by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities as a tourist and cultural site and thus will be unique in Amman.

A brochure publicised by the owners compares the mart to famous and centuries-old market places like Hamidiyeh in Damascus, Safiri in Baghdad, Bab Al Amud in Jerusalem and Khan el Khalili in Cairo.

Eastern Amman, wherein lies Weithad, has a popula-

The management will also arrange special events in

The owners did not tear down the old buildings but instead renovated them and added new ones with the same flavour. Mrs. Kharoba said

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1076	1.1191
DE Mark	0.4615	0.4638
CH Franc	0.5633	0.5661
FR Franc	0.1364	0.1371
JP Yen	0.832	0.8352
NL Guilder	0.4113	0.4134
IT Lira	0.4652	0.4675

PART 13	MARKET	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE THRUOUT JUN	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
267.000	205.000	AMAR RUBY	13.3	1.44	5	100	34730	242.00	242.50	+.50
1.290	.680	ELI-KART INC. INC.	70.3	0.00	30	41390	43100	1.05	1.08	+.02
1.290	4.250	THE HOUZING INC.	11.1	2.83	2	300	2928	4.90	4.88	-.02
1.210	.890	JOE WOLF BANK	8.5	7.61	17	10625	9693	.91	.92	+.01
1.090	2.000	AMAR RUBY	9	0.00	43	100500	27123	.77	.78	+.01
1.640	1.000	PELLEAU, TRV. INC.	9	0.00	30	13763	26601	1.32	1.37	+.05
MARK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 187.30 FCBS: +0.19 1.68 1/2995 106170										
2.910	2.180	JOR FRENCH TRADER	6.1	9.30	1	100	213	2.17	2.18	+.02
2.600	1.850	AMAR LIFE TRADER	7.4	8.21	2	5000	9750	1.84	1.95	+.01
MARK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 131.41 FCBS: -0.06 3 5100 9965										
1.900	1.450	JOR-RESEARCH CORP.	11.5	7.90	10	8501	13589	1.59	1.60	+.01
1.080	1.080	REAL ESTATE TRV.	9	0.00	1	1100	1344	1.20	1.23	+.03
1.080	.880	REAL ESTATE TRV.	9	4.19	9	4500	9450	2.90	2.93	+.03
2.420	1.720	JOE WOLF BANK	14.2	0.00	2	900	1383	1.76	1.72	-.04
3.460	3.190	AMAR LIFE TRV. INC.	13.4	5.90	7	1900	6535	3.48	3.45	-.03
1.360	.960	ZARCA EDUCATION	8	0.750	4	600	1213	1.83	1.83	0.00
1.200	.820	WILSON LAND DEV.	8	0.00	3	3350	2700	.92	.92	0.00
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 112.41 FCBS: -0.02 30 21401 31004										
26.820	18.850	JOR-TORRADO & CO.	15.7	3.88	1	30	390	20.00	19.90	-.10
3.770	3.080	JOR. CREDIT FACT.	18.8	3.08	5	538	1751	3.30	3.26	-.04
5.980	4.070	AMAR TRV. INC.	16.6	3.45	8	820	2020	5.50	5.50	0.00
10.880	8.700	JOR. FRENCH TRADER	9.4	8.62	1	30	186	9.30	9.28	-.02
3.750	1.650	INDUSTRIAL COMM. CORP.	29.2	0.00	6	165	400	2.20	2.27	+.03
4.470	3.100	AMAR FRENCH TRV.	10.5	8.88	8	1130	4065	3.53	3.55	+.02
8.490	6.090	JOR. CREDIT FACT.	14.0	6.21	7	100	610	6.10	6.10	0.00
8.000	4.230	DAR ALDAR, DT. TRV.	13.0	4.22	7	1800	1800	7.76	7.85	+.09
8.800	3.100	AMAR ALDIN, INC.	8.6	8.68	7	1450	5085	3.50	3.47	-.03
4.900	.960	LIVESTOCK & EQUINE	8	6.21	1	6000	730	.77	.73	-.04
1.500	1.000	AMAR PAPER CORP. INC.	8.2	8.23	2	1000	200	1.00	1.00	0.00
1.300	1.070	NATIONAL TRV. INC.	9	0.00	11	7740	10390	1.28	1.32	+.04
1.090	.630	WILSON LAND DEV.	9	0.00	3	1650	1056	.84	.84	0.00
1.940	1.040	WILSON LAND DEV. CORP.	9	0.00	3	228	113	1.14	1.14	0.00
3.590	2.280	DRIVE-CHIN. FISH.	70.9	0.00	3	800	1340	2.75	2.68	-.07
3.100	1.080	AMAR TRV. INC.	28.7	0.00	6	1120	2710	1.38	1.37	-.01
3.280	.600	WILSON LAND DEV. INC.	47.9	19.50	10	8500	9174	1.64	1.62	-.02
2.100	1.140	JOE WOLF BANK	19.5	0.00	2	1600	1214	1.38	1.39	+.01
1.640	.960	JOR. FRENCH TRADER	25.3	0.00	9	2500	3350	.94	.94	0.00
2.450	1.750	JOE WOLF BANK	2							

Noting that the presence of initiated goods in the local market has increased recently and that some people have taken it as a profession to copy trade marks, the source said that the new law will toughen the penalties on violators. The draft law is expected for completion soon in order to present it to the Council of Ministers for discussion and approval (AJ Dustour).

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## Spotlight switches from Euro 96 to World Cup

LONDON (R) — After a summer dominated by Euro 96, the World Cup returns to centre-stage with 29 matches in 27 countries taking place in Europe and South America over the next few days.

The two-year qualifying process for a place in France in 1998 began last April, but a clearer picture of the whys and wherefores of the qualifying competition will only start to appear later next week.

The World Cup bonanza kicks off with seven matches on Saturday and two on Sunday. Two more follow next Tuesday and on Wednesday there are 18 — 14 in Europe and four in South America.

European champions Germany, 1994 World Cup runners-up Italy, and likely qualifiers Croatia and the Netherlands all begin their campaigns in the next few days, with the Dutch facing a tricky visit to Wales in a group seven match on Saturday night.

Arsenal forward Dennis Bergkamp has been ruled out of the Dutch side because of the hamstring strain that has kept him out of his club's last four games.

He was not able to train with the Dutch squad on Thursday and that prompted coach Guus Hiddink to decide not to risk him against the Welsh.

Hiddink said: "I decided last night not to play Dennis. His injury appeared rather weak and he could only do the warm-up exercises."

Ajax defender Winston Bogarde is another doubtful starter because of an injury to his left foot, but Hiddink, who will not name his team until just before kick-off, said that Bogarde would "probably be available".

Italy are likely to start their group two campaign, away to Moldova on Saturday, with a bold attacking trio of Fabrizio Ravanelli, Pierluigi Casiraghi and Enrico Chiesa.

Coach Arrigo Sacchi says that injuries to key players Alessandro Del Piero and Demetrio Albertini have left him little option

but to opt for a three-man attack.

"In midfield, I've been left with few players and therefore I absolutely think I'll go for the other solution because I know that Chiesa, Casiraghi and Ravanelli are not players who limit themselves to being mere strikers."

Another enforced change to the Italian team concerns the goalkeeping position. Fiorentina's Francesco Toldo is set to come in for his fourth cap in place of Parma's Luca Bucci who injured his shoulder in midweek training.

Following Italy's first round elimination from Euro 96, Sacchi badly needs to make a winning world cup start in order to regain the support and respect of disillusioned fans.

England, who play Poland next Wednesday, opened their campaign with a 3-0 win over Moldova last month. Italy also play again next Wednesday when they are at home to Georgia.

Like Italy, Scotland are playing two of their group four matches in five days. They are in Latvia on Saturday and travel to Estonia on Wednesday.

While Craig Brown's men start favourites to win both matches despite injury worries, Latvian trainer Janis Gilis said on Friday his team was ready to face a Scottish attacking onslaught.

But he added that his team, beaten 2-1 by Sweden in their first qualifier last month, would try to dominate the centre of the field with his hopes pinned on Vits Rimkus, who has been on form for his German second division team Nuremberg.

Germany, hoping to continue where they left off after winning Euro 96 in June, start their group nine campaign in Armenia next Wednesday.

Croatia face Bosnia in a match being played in neutral Bologna, Italy next Tuesday as FIFA will not allow the newly refurbished Kosevo Stadium in Sarajevo to be used because of the political situation.

## Judge sends striking baseball umpires back to work

PHILADELPHIA (AFP)

Baseball umpires were ordered back to work on Friday by a U.S. district court judge who ruled they did not have the right to strike over the Roberto Alomar spitting incident.

The ruling came a week after Alomar, the Baltimore Orioles' second baseman, spit in the face of umpire John Hirschbeck.

U.S. district judge Edmund Ludwig met with umpires and baseball executives before granting the injunction that forced umpires to return to work.

"I just think it's shameful that this had to go to a federal judge," said umpire Mark Johnson, part of the crew working Friday's game between the Orioles and Cleveland Indians. "This is baseball, this is our family. This should have been handled in-house."

Alomar was suspended for five regular season games. Umpires wanted the ban to include this year's playoff games. But American league president Gene Budig cited the most recent collective bargaining agreement — which expired in 1993 — which says players can't be suspended in the post-season



Orioles manager Davey Johnson talks with the American League umpires following their pre-game press conference prior to game three of the playoffs at Jacobs Field. A U.S. District Court judge ordered the umpires to work the post-season games after a threatened protest walkout over the handling of a disciplinary action against Baltimore Orioles star second baseman Roberto Alomar for spitting in an umpire's face (Reuters photo)

for actions during the regular season.

After threatening to strike on Monday, umpires agreed to work the first three days of the playoffs pending Alomar's scheduled appeal hearing on Thursday.

When Alomar dropped

his appeal on Wednesday, Budig confirmed the ban would be imposed next season.

On Thursday, umpires voted to strike despite the no-strike clause in their contract.

Acting Commissioner Bud Selig Friday called a meeting for November 14

in Phoenix to form codes of conduct in a bid to improve relations among officials and players.

"We must arrive at solutions so that we never again face the kind of conflict that has arisen over the Roberto Alomar incident," Selig said. "It is beneficial

to the game that we establish the proper codes of conduct, as well as the penalties all parties should expect when infractions occur and rules are broken. There should be no surprises when penalties are handed down by the league presidents."

Alomar bumped and spat on Hirschbeck during a game in Toronto last Friday. He fanned the controversy by charging that Hirschbeck had become "more bitter" since the death of one of his sons from the brain disease A.D.

Several days later, Alomar toward A.D. research, but umpires were not appeased.

"In my 29 years of professional baseball, I've never seen anything like it," said Jim Evans, umpire crew chief for Friday's game in Cleveland.

"I have a nine-year-old daughter and I would not be any more offended if someone spit in my daughter's face than at what happened to one of our brothers on the baseball field a week ago."

## Chang beats Rusudski in Singapore Open

SINGAPORE (R) — World No. 2 Michael Chang fought off Greg Rusudski of Britain 7-6 (7-5) 6-3 on Saturday to set up an all-American final in the men's Singapore Open.

Chang will meet qualifier Jonathan Stark, who fired 21 aces to beat Thomas Johansson of Sweden 3-6 6-2 6-4 in the other semifinal.

Chang was down three break points on his serve and fell 1-4 behind in the first-set tie-breaker but battled back each time.

The American finally won the set when he hit a cross-court passing shot after Rusudski failed to put away an overhead smash.

"I was fortunate to get out of that service game and sneak off with the tie-breaker," Chang said. "A few key points just happened to go my way."

"It was just a bit of luck back there. Michael played some good points," Rusudski said.

Chang stormed to a 5-1 lead in the second set and held on for victory.

In the other match, Stark registered a critical break in the third game of the third set and then held serve to earn a final berth.

It will be Stark's first appearance in the final of an ATP Tour event since 1993.

"I'm serving really well. That's the most important part of my game. Things have been falling my way," Stark said. "I'm very happy with the way I've played all week."

## Cleveland avoid 1st round playoff elimination

CLEVELAND (AFP) — Defending American League champions Cleveland staved off elimination from the first-round of the playoffs on Friday with a 9-4 victory over Baltimore that narrowed the gap to 1-2.

Albert Belle's seventh-inning grand slam snapped a tie and kept alive Cleveland's hopes of becoming the fifth team in baseball to come back from an 0-2 deficit to win a best-of-five series.

After not hitting a ball out of the infield in his first six at-bats of the series, Belle homered twice, walked twice and singled in his next six trips, reminding everyone he is still the most dangerous hitter in the game.

"The pitch was a fastball away, and I did not get behind it when I threw it," said reliever Armando Benitez.

"Armando has a lot of talent, but he's still a very young pitcher," Orioles manager Davey Johnson said. "He shook off a veteran catcher (Mark Parent) four or five times with Albert Belle at bat."

Belle fired a 1-2 fastball over the left-center field fence to break a 4-4 tie. It was the first post-season grand slam by an Indian since Elmer Smith hit one in the 1920 World Series, and it forced a game four in Cleveland on Saturday.

At Arlington, the New York Yankees rallied with two runs in the ninth inning to beat the Texas Rangers 3-2 and take a 2-1 lead in their AL series.

Mariano Duncan's two-out RBI single capped the Yankees' two-run ninth and gave New York their second comeback in as many games against the beleaguered Texas bullpen.

Texas left-hander Darren Oliver limited New York to four hits over the first eight innings.

But in the ninth New York opened with singles off Oliver by Derek Jeter and Tim Lincecum.

Closer Mike Henneman gave up a game-tying sacrifice fly to Bernie Williams, who homered in



Orioles second baseman Roberto Alomar is jeered by fans as he returns to the dugout after striking out in the third inning at Jacobs Field. Alomar has been the object of repeated booing since his spitting incident involving an umpire last week (Reuters photo)

the first inning.

Cecil Fielder bounced out to third, with Raines taking second as first baseman will Clark Dug out Dean Palmer's low throw. Tino Martinez was intentionally walked and Duncan made the Rangers pay with a soft single to left-center field.

Jeff Nelson, who

pitched three scoreless innings in relief of Jimmy Key, was the winner. John Wetteland walked the leadoff batter in the ninth, but helped himself with a good defensive play and struck out Darryl Hamilton for the save.

The National League returns to action on Saturday as well, with the

World Series champion Braves trying to complete a sweep of the Los Angeles Dodgers in Atlanta.

The St. Louis Cardinals also hold a 2-0 lead, but they will have to beat San Diego at home to clinch a berth in the NL championship series.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### 'Donadoni to return to AC Milan'

ROME (R) — Veteran Italian midfielder Roberto Donadoni is set to return to champions AC Milan after a season in U.S. Major League Soccer, the sports daily Corriere Dello Sport reported on Saturday. The paper, which gave no source for its story, said Donadoni was due to return from holiday in about three weeks and would sign for his former club until June 1998. Donadoni, 33, helped the struggling New York/New Jersey Metrostars reach the play-offs in the new United States league this season.

### Mechanic cleared in tennis star's death

RIVERHEAD (R) — A swimming pool mechanic and a pool maintenance company were cleared on Friday of criminal charges in the gas poisoning death of former tennis star Vitas Gerulaitis. A Suffolk County, New York, jury found Bartholomew Torpey and his employer, East End Pools and Courts Inc., not guilty of all charges. They were accused of improperly installing an exhaust pipe in a pool cottage where Gerulaitis died in 1994, aged 40. Gerulaitis, who retired from the tennis circuit in 1984 but later returned as a broad aster and played in exhibition matches, won 27 singles and nine doubles championships, including the 1977 Australian Open.

### Vogts international hopes for Dundee

BONN (AFP) — Bertie Vogts, the German national football coach, said that he hoped Karlsruhe's South African born striker Sean Dundee would be granted German citizenship this year so he could name him in his squad. "I hope that his naturalisation will be dealt with swiftly as I am keeping the door open so I can name him in the squad for the match with Northern Ireland in November," Vogts said. Dundee, 23, scored 16 goals for Karlsruhe last season and is the Bundesliga's leading scorer this season with eight. He did his chances a power of good by signing a new contract with Karlsruhe in September that will keep him at the club till 2003. Vogts, who coached Germany to the Euro '96 title, said he had been promoting Dundee's case since the beginning of the year. He had asked the German government to speed it up in May so he could have played in Euro '96, but the government refused. Vogts is aware that other countries are interested in persuading Dundee to play for them notably republic of Ireland manager Mick McCarthy.

## Elber keeps Stuttgart top of Bundesliga

BONN (R) — Two goals from Brazilian striker Giovane Elber enabled VfB Stuttgart to stay top of the Bundesliga despite being reduced to 10 men for much of their 4-2 win over Freiburg on Friday.

Second-placed Bayer Leverkusen kept up the pressure with a 4-1 demolition of Hansa Rostock but champions Borussia Dortmund went down 1-0 away to promoted Bochum.

The league leaders' win gave them 22 points from nine games, a point ahead of Leverkusen, and assured them of retaining top spot over the weekend regardless of the result of third-placed Bayern Munich's match with Hamburg on Saturday.

Stuttgart were reduced to 10 men in the 29th minute when Dutch libero Frank Verlaet was sent off for a challenge on compatriot Harry Decheiver with the

score at 1-1.

The early-season pacesetters, inspired by the return of playmaker Krassimir Balakov after injury, refused to be discouraged. Thomas Schneider put them ahead in the 39th minute but Decheiver equalised for Freiburg in the 52nd.

Balakov set up Elber's first in the 64th minute and the striker added a second four minutes later to secure the points for Joachim Loew's side.

Leverkusen went behind to an early goal from Rostock but a double from Paulo Sérgio put them on the road to victory.

A spectacular goal from defender Thomas Waldoch gave Bochum their first victory over their wealthy local rivals since 1989.

The defeat leaves Dortmund in fifth place, six points behind the leaders.

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## Injury forces Graf out of semifinal with Huber

LEIPZIG (R) — Steffi Graf pulled out of the \$450,000 Leipzig Women's Tournament because of a knee injury on Saturday, just hours before she was due to face Anke Huber in an all-German semifinal.

The world No. 1 said a tendon strain in her left knee had troubled her in her quarter-final win over Judith Wiesner of Austria and she had to break off from a training session on Friday. She decided to pull out on Saturday morning.

"I'm really sorry I can't even try to play against Anke," Graf said in a statement. "It's the first time I've been unable to continue in a tournament because of injury."

Graf's withdrawal means Huber, the defending champion, will face the winner of the semifinal between Croatia's Iva Majoli and Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic.

## Newcastle's Asprilla rejects talk of move

BOGOTA (R) — Out-of-favour Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla said on Friday he was happy in English soccer and definitely staying at Newcastle United — booting into touch talk of an imminent return to Italy.

In Bogota to train with his national squad, Asprilla, who has found himself on the Newcastle substitutes' bench of late, and coach Herman Dario Gomez rejected talk that he was about to quit, blaming earlier suggestions to the contrary on a poor choice of words.

With world record \$23.1 million signing Alan Shearer and Les Ferdinand knocking in the goals for Newcastle, Asprilla, an \$11.5 million capture from Parma, has found himself being used more as a substitute, often as a midfielder and not in his preferred

striking role.

But the Colombian said on Friday: "I'm happy in England and I'm staying at Newcastle. Talk of a move are just rumours."

"I don't know why I'm on the bench. You'll have to ask (manager) Kevin Keegan. I know I work the same as the others. But I've always been well-treated by the fans, Kevin and the trainers," he added.

In comments just hours after his return to Colombia on Thursday, Asprilla had replied to reporters' questions that it would "not be a bad idea (to return to Italy), the main thing is to play."

But at a news conference before the start of training on Friday, in the build-up to Colombia's World Cup qualifier against Ecuador in Quito next Wednesday, Dario Gomez played down the remarks.

"Faustino tells me he has

good relations with his team mates and the team manager. Sometimes he doesn't really know how to express himself," he said.

"Like any player that doesn't make the starting line-up he's a bit unhappy but he's confident in his ability and feels at the right moment he will be off the bench."

Asprilla said: "Newcastle United paid for Shearer not me. I don't know if he's worth what they paid. It's very difficult to say. They bought him to do a job and they have to pay what it costs."

But he added: "He's from Newcastle and he can put in the goals."

The Colombian press closely follows Asprilla's fortunes in England and has been bewildered by Keegan's decision to sideline him.

## Seles to miss Zurich while undergoing treatment

SARASOTA, Florida (R) — Monica Seles has withdrawn from the European Indoor Championships in Zurich later this month after beginning a new rehabilitation programme in an effort to avoid surgery on her injured left shoulder.

Seles began what is expected to be a month-long rehab programme immediately after leading the United States to the Fed Cup title last weekend, her publicist announced in a release on Friday.

The co-world number one had put off starting the programme, which will keep her from competing, so that she could play the U.S. Open and Fed Cup final.

"I was looking forward to Zurich," Seles said of the event set to begin October 14. "But if there is a chance I can avoid shoulder surgery, I will try this new rehab."

The left-hander suffered a small tear in the lining of her left shoulder socket during the Australian Open in January.

Seles won the Australian Open, but the injury sidelined her several times during the year and often causes pain when she serves.



Alberto Tomba

## Tomba skis for another season

MILAN (AFP) — Triple Olympic skiing champion Alberto Tomba announced Saturday that he will race for another season, ending speculation that the hugely popular Italian would retire.

Tomba, who has twice won the Olympic grand slalom and a gold in the slalom, said his decision to continue had been influenced by the fact that Italy will be hosting the World Championships next February at Sestriere.

The 1995 World Cup winner said: "I woke up one morning with one thing in mind: skiing is still a part of my life."

"After winning medals at

the Sierra Nevada world championships, I decided to quit skiing. I was mentally exhausted and the stress created by being under a great deal of pressure was gradually eating me up."

"I lacked motivation — which is the petrol every athlete needs to make their head and legs work."

"And yet, I woke up one morning with one thing in mind: skiing is still a part of my life. I thought about my fans, about people's affection, about all the sacrifices which I had made and all the organisations who had helped me down the years."

Tomba, who turns 30 on

December 19, warned his supporters not to expect too much.

"Don't expect the moon. The years are rolling by for everyone and this one will be my 30th. I'm getting on and if I've decided to continue, it's for the love of the sport which I've always had."

Tomba, who first graced the circuit a decade ago, said:

However, he added that he

would only start training for the 1996-97 season now and would almost certainly miss the opening events in order to get back to race fitness. But he also avoided repeated questions as to when and where he would compete on the world cup circuit this season.

"I'll start the season only when I feel in shape physically," he said.

## Battle between Bills and unbeaten Colts highlights NFL weekend

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Indianapolis Colts, the only unbeaten team left in the National Football League, meet the Buffalo Bills on Sunday in a key American Conference east game.

With four wins, the Colts have sole possession of first place in the AFC East for the first time since the final week of the 1987 season. It's their best start to a season since they opened 1977 with five victories.

The Bills, who beat the Colts twice last season, are tied with the Miami Dolphins for second place in the division.

Buffalo, who would probably be a candidate for team of this decade despite losing four successive Super Bowls, sacked Colts quarterback Jim Harbaugh five times last September at Rich Stadium.

The Bills forced three turnovers in a 16-10 win at Indianapolis in the rematch in November.

The Dolphins will play their first game of the season without star quarterback Dan Marino when they host the Seattle Seahawks.

Marino is expected to be out for up to six weeks with a broken right ankle.

The last seven times they have been without Marino — for five games in 1993 and two last season — the Dolphins have lost.

Dolphins coach Jimmy Johnson plans to start Craig Erickson rather than veteran Bernie Kosar, even though Erickson has yet to throw a pass for the Dolphins this season.

Five-time Super Bowl winners San Francisco have quarterback problems as they travel to St. Louis, with both Steve Young and backup Elvis Grbac nursing injuries. Young has a pulled groin muscle and Grbac missed practice this week with back spasms.

The San Diego Chargers, who joined a three-way tie for first place in the AFC West with a win over Kansas City last week, meet the third team in the trio, Denver, on Sunday.

in one of the league's richest rivalries.

The Bears will rely on backup quarterback David Krieg in place of injured Erik Kramer. Krieg led Chicago to a 19-17 victory over Oakland last week.

Chicago will be trying to stop the league's hottest quarterback in Brett Favre. Favre is averaging just under 230 yards per game this season. His 16 passing TDs are double the total of any other starting quarterback.

The Carolina Panthers and Minnesota Vikings, both knocked from the unbeaten ranks last week, meet at the Metrodome.

In their loss to Jacksonville last week, the Panthers also lost rookie running back Tim Biak-

abutuka for the rest of the season with a torn ligament in his left knee. To replace him Carolina have signed Leroy Hoard, who was placed on waivers by the Baltimore Ravens after gaining 61 yards on 15 carries in two games.

In other games Sunday, the Detroit Lions host winless Atlanta, New England visit Baltimore, Oakland meet the winless New York Jets, Jacksonville play winless New Orleans, and Houston visit the Cincinnati Bengals.

The Chiefs host Pittsburgh on Monday night. Arizona, Dallas, the New York Giants, Philadelphia, Tampa Bay and Washington have the week off.

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6	28528	24	14975
7	25401	25	26083
8	1312	26	25221
9	3265	27	22482
10	24250	28	3291
11	3085	29	20690
12	3261	30	27071
13	27216	31	28674
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**WEST**  
 ♠ 7 6 2  
 ♥ A 5 10 9 8 2  
 ♦ K 3  
 ♣ 6 5

**EAST**  
 ♠ 4 3  
 ♥ Q 3 7 5 4 3  
 ♦ A Q J 6 2  
 ♣ 9 8

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A J 9 8 4  
 ♥ Q 8 5  
 ♦ 10 8 5  
 ♣ J 7 2

The bidding:  
 NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
 1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass  
 2♣ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: ?

Hercule Poirot's reputation as one of the great sleuths of his day meant an ever-increasing workload. As a result, he and his associate, Capt. Hastings, made only rare appearances at the club on Baker Street, where it had been their wont to relax in the bridge room after a grueling case.

It was with considerable delight, therefore, that they were welcomed into the game one balmy evening in mid-June. A cut-for-partners team game was soon arranged, but there was little in the cards and this deal eventually provided the margin of victory.

Both East-West pairs pushed their opponents into five spades. Against Hastings, West led a plesian king of hearts. Declarer ruffed high in dummy, came to hand with the eight of trumps and ruffed another heart. After drawing trumps, declarer ran the clubs and made all the tricks.

Poirot held the West cards at the other table, and set the contract one. On the cab ride home, Hastings asked about the hand.

"Ah, mon ami," remarked the little Belgian, "it is as I have always said. Use those little grey cells! My partner, vulnerable, had bid five hearts with very little in the suit. Surely he held at least five hearts, so the chances of one of the opposing side being void in the suit was real. Also, partner had to have some high cards and, since the opponents had bid the black suits, I decided that East's strength was probably in diamonds."

"Alors! I immediately led the king of diamonds and zut, we had the first three tricks. So simple, really."

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### Activities of Sunday Oct. 6, 1996

## JERUSALEM DAY

Open invitation to the public to attend the seventh seminar entitled:

### The Arabs' Inalienable Rights In Jerusalem

from Oct. 5 to Oct. 8, 1996 at the Royal Cultural Centre - Amman

activities of Sunday, Oct. 6, 1996

4:00 p.m.: Lecture on Arab Cannanites - Builders of Jerusalem and Palestinian Cities by **Professor Dr. Mahmoud Ahmad Al Zu'bi** - Damsacus University

4:45 p.m.: The Right of Return of Displaced Jerusalemites - lecture by **Professor John B. Quigley**

5:45 p.m.: Recess

6:00 p.m.: Religious Shrines and their Protection by **Professor Dr. Mustafa Ahmad Fuad** - Tanta University - Egypt.

activities of Monday, Oct. 7, 1996

4:00 p.m.: "Exposure and Critique of the Biblical Traditions about Land Possessions and the Exploitation of these Traditions by Christians in the Past and Zionists Today" - English presentation by the Reverend **Dr. Michael Prior**, Head of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, St. Mary's University College, Strawberry Hill, United Kingdom.

4:45 p.m.: "Western Scholarship and Silencing of Palestinian History" - English presentation by **Professor Keith Whitlam**, Department of Religious Studies, University of Sterling, Scotland.

5:45 p.m.: "Zionist Encroachment on Arab Rights in Jerusalem" - Arabic presentation by **Professor Hassan Sayyed Suleiman**, Head of the Political Sciences Department, Sana'a University.

6:30 p.m.: "Israeli practices against Arab rights in the fields of education in Jerusalem, 1967-1996" - Arabic presentation by **Dr. Alafi Al Bitar**, Jerusalem Open University.

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## Taleban pound Panjshir in bid to flush out Massoud

### Militia warns Russia, Central Asia

KABUL (Agencies) — Rebel tanks and heavy artillery pounded the mouth of a northern valley Saturday where government soldiers fled after being driven from the capital one week ago.

Hundreds of Taleban fighters clambered up the rugged mountains carrying Kalashnikov rifles.

After a blistering daylight rocket assault on the northern Panjshir Valley, the Taleban were claiming to have captured three mountain peaks and some heavy artillery.

A column of tanks and multiple rocket launchers at the mouth of the valley bombarded the area and witnesses saw four helicopter gunships swoop low into the valley blasting government position and dodging anti-aircraft fire.

There were some unconfirmed reports that Taleban jet fighters also bombed the valley in an attempt to flush out former government soldiers, led by former military chief Ahmad Shah Massoud.

From his bases in the Panjshir Valley, Mr. Massoud fought invading Soviet troops as well as Afghanistan's communist soldiers, before rebels threw them out in 1992.

One week ago, the Taleban — a movement that sprung from religious schools in Pakistan — threw Mr. Massoud out of Kabul and now control more than two-thirds of Afghanistan.

The Taleban have vowed to push Mr. Massoud's forces out of Afghanistan or kill them.

The only other significant area of the country not under Taleban control is in northern Afghanistan, where Uzbek warlord Rashid Dostum rules.

In Kabul, Information Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said the Taleban preferred to negotiate with General

Dostum, rather than wage war against him.

"We are negotiating with Dostum and have no problems with him," he said.

Gen. Dostum, a former communist who defected to the resistance in early 1992, has said he was ready to negotiate, but warned the Taleban against trying to rule his territory.

There are some within the Taleban who vow to "liberate" all of Afghanistan and impose its strict interpretation of Islamic law nationwide.

Meanwhile, Mr. Muttaqi warned Russia and the Central Asian states not to interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

That warning came a day after Russian and Central Asian leaders met to discuss bolstering their defences following the Taleban takeover of Kabul last week (see page 4).

"The Russians are too weak even to handle what is happening in Chechnya and they would be wise to remember their bitter experience in Afghanistan," Mr. Muttaqi told the Associated Press in an interview in the Afghan capital.

"Russia is too weak a country to deliver any kind of warning to anyone," he said.

On Saturday the Taleban made a public display of smashing 1,800 bottles of homemade liquor in the latest evidence of strict Islamic rule in Afghanistan.

Speaking in his dimly-lit office in the rocket-battered capital, Mr. Muttaqi said the Taleban would not be swayed from the path of imposing their rigid brand of Islam.

He said they would not be forced to educate girls or allow women to work. He said girls will be educated, but only until they reach

eight-years-old and only in the Muslim holy book, the Koran.

"Ours is an Islamic establishment and those who criticize it as being harsh do not understand it," he said.

At checkpoints throughout the capital, Taleban guards brandishing Kalashnikov rifles, stop cars and confiscate cassette tapes. Men have been told to wear hats or turbans and to grow beards.

At night in the darkened city armed Taleban guards stop all cars at gunpoint that violate a 10 p.m. curfew. During the day, bearded Taleban roam through the streets in commandeered four-wheel vehicles.

"Our rule is God's rule," said Mr. Muttaqi. "This is what the people of Afghanistan have suffered and given so much blood to achieve."

They said Islamic Sharia laws would be imposed that permit amputation for thieves, stoning to death for adulterers and harsh, but unspecified, punishments for drinkers and drug takers.

Taleban officials said the alcoholic drinks destroyed on Saturday were confiscated from the Inter-Continental Hotel, Kabul's only functioning big hotel and now home to scores of their Taleban colleagues.

The drink was gathered on a dusty hillside on the northern outskirts of Kabul and the tank was rolled in to crush it.

Children moved in after the Taleban left to see whether anything was left to be salvaged. One was successful, finding an undamaged can of beer.

## Regent meets Pakistani defence chief

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Saturday meets with the chairman of Pakistan's Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Chief Marshal Farouq Khan, who is currently on a visit to Jordan leading a delegation.

The Regent's meeting with Air Chief Marshal Khan took place at the General Headquarters of



the Armed Forces during a visit the Crown Prince paid to the GHQ. The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai and Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan Ali Sarwar Naqvi. The Pakistani military dele-

gation arrived Saturday in Amman on a several day visit.

The Regent and the delegation reviewed the regional situation, bilateral cooperation and issues of common interest.

The military establishments of Jordan and Pakistan have enjoyed decades long relationship. The Pakistani military has provided officer and technical training to hundreds of Jordanian military personnel.

Field Marshal Mirai also received the Pakistani official and the two reviewed coordination on issues of common concern (Armed Forces photo)

## Emoush: No one will face trial for unrest

AMMAN (J.T.) — About 50 people who face trial for their role in August riots in the south will soon be released, the president of Parliament's Public Freedoms Committee said in comments published Saturday.

"We have assurances that those detained in what has become to be known the bread case will soon be released. No one will go to trial," Islamist Deputy Bassam Emoush said in remarks carried by Al-Dustour daily.

He said that his parliamentary committee had submitted a list of names to His Majesty the King seeking an amnesty.

"The list includes the president of the Engineers Association, Leith Shbeilat, Atta Abu Al-Rishieh from the Islamic Liberation Party and other political prisoners," Dr. Emoush said during an Islamist rally in northern Amman.

Al-Dustour quoted Dr. Emoush as telling the rally that the Constitution guarantees the people's right to assemble and organize and that the riots in the southern

towns of Karak, Tafleeh and Ma'an were an expression that is guarded by the Constitution.

"We (the Islamists) are against the detention of any citizen, except murderers, smugglers, and drug dealers."

Referring to recent resignations from the House in protest against the government policies, Dr. Emoush said that he was against resignations in principle.

"However, I am with the resignation of (Karak deputy) Nazih Ammarin," Dr. Emoush said.

Dr. Ammarin, a physician, resigned from the House following the riots in his hometown in protest of what he claims harsh remarks Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti made when he called the deputy on the first day of the violence.

"That resignation must be discussed at Parliament, and he who is responsible must get accounted," Dr. Emoush said.

## Qatar confirms relations with Israel are on hold

DUBAI (R) — Qatar, which has moved faster than any other Gulf state to forge economic ties with Israel, has put further normalisation with the Jewish state on hold, its foreign affairs minister said in remarks published on Saturday.

Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassim Ben Jabr Al-Thani told the Al-Hayat newspaper that relations with Israel were "on hold."

"There is a postponement in opening a (Qatari) trade office in Israel and there is a postponement in any meetings or direct contacts between us and Israel," he told the newspaper in New York. "Now we have stopped any activities with Israel," he said.

Oman and Qatar have forged ahead of other Gulf states in establishing economic ties with Israel but have stopped short of diplomatic relations pending the resolution of all Arab-Israeli conflicts.

They are the only two states in the region that have allowed Israel to set up trade missions. An 18-member group of Qatari private merchants was

due to tour Israel in the third week of October to explore joint ventures in agriculture, power, mineral water and petrochemicals.

No withdrawal of case Sheikh Hamad also told Al-Hayat that his country will not withdraw the case it had taken to the World Court over a territorial dispute with Bahrain.

"If anyone thinks that the case will be withdrawn from the World Court, this is a dream," Al-Hayat quoted Sheikh Hamad as saying. Qatar and Bahrain are locked in a dispute over a number of barren but potentially oil and gas-rich islands, sandbanks and reefs controlled by Bahrain since the 1930s.

Bahrain has repeatedly asked Qatar to withdraw the case it had taken to the court at the Hague and accept Saudi mediation.

Qatar says it will only withdraw the case from the World Court if Saudi Arabia's mediation succeeded.

Doha asked the World Court in 1991 to settle the problem. The court decided in January it had jurisdiction and is expected to produce a verdict by the end of 1996.

## Turkish premier visits Libya, wants close ties

TUNIS (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, making a visit to Libya that has stirred controversy both in Turkey and among its Western allies, was quoted on Saturday as saying he wanted closer ties with Tripoli.

The official Libyan news agency JANA reported that Mr. Erbakan reiterated his government's rejection of U.N. sanctions imposed on Libya for its refusal to hand over two Libyans suspected of blowing up a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988.

"This visit is a start for strong and solid ties and will expand fields of trade cooperation between our two countries," he was quoted as saying on arrival on Friday night.

Mr. Erbakan on Saturday morning started talks with his Libyan counterpart Abdul Majid Al-Gu'ud at a meeting attended by ministers from the two countries. JANA later reported.

Diplomats said that Mr. Erbakan was also expected to meet Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, most probably late on Saturday, before leaving on Sunday.

"Our government rejects the unjust sanctions imposed on Libya, and we have experienced by ourselves the lack of credibility of these measures. We were to fly straight to Tripoli, but we were forced to take several roads," Mr. Erbakan said, quoted by JANA.

Mr. Erbakan flew from Cairo to the Tunisian island of Jerba and then travelled by road across the border, a Turkish diplomat in Tunis said. He cannot fly to Libya because of the sanctions.

Turkey's Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller, Mr. Erbakan's conservative coalition partner, has described the visit as ill-timed while the interior minister, a member of Mrs. Ciller's party, has threatened to resign over the trip. Mrs. Ciller herself visited Libya and met with Colonel Qadhafi in 1994, when she was prime minister.

Washington, already wary of modern Turkey's first Islamist leader — who made a state

visit to Iran over the summer after taking office — has expressed disquiet at the Libya visit.

The United States accuses both Libya and Iran of sponsoring state terrorism and has rebuked its NATO ally for forging closer ties with the two countries. Few foreign leaders have visited Tripoli since the United Nations imposed an air and limited trade embargo on Libya.

But Mr. Erbakan has said that the visit was necessary for Turkey's commercial interests. "This visit is not aimed against any country or society in the world," Mr. Erbakan told reporters before leaving Turkey for Egypt, the first stop on his regional tour. "America is our friend and ally," he added.

Mr. Erbakan leads a 120-strong delegation including businessmen and members of parliament from all political parties, Turkish diplomats said.

Turkish officials want Libya to repay debts of up to \$365 million due to Turkish contractors and Turkish Energy Minister Recai Kutan started talks with Libyan officials on Wednesday on economic and energy cooperation. Trade between Libya and Turkey in 1995 rose to \$623 million from \$498 million.

Diplomats said that Libya's finance officials last month decided to pay arrears of foreign companies working in Libya, mainly those from European countries. Libya has been arguing that delays were caused by the U.N. sanctions effects.

Increased imports of crude oil from Libya and natural gas from Nigeria are also on the agenda.

Anatolian news agency has quoted Mr. Erbakan as saying Libya could sell Turkey oil, natural gas, petrochemicals and fertiliser and buy food, textiles and industrial products.

Mr. Erbakan is due to travel from Libya to Nigeria, also rich in natural resources but under fire from the West over the human rights record of its military government.

## Senior politician killed in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (R) — Gunmen loyal to Somali faction leader Hussein Aidede assassinated a leader of a rival group and killed two other officials on Friday night, party officials said on Saturday.

They said Mohammad Ahmad Nuur, 48, secretary-general of the United Somali Congress-Somali National Alliance (USC-SNA) wing led by Ali Hassan Osman Ato, was killed when his car was ambushed in south Mogadishu.

Another party activist, Mohammad Jama Sofi, was killed in the attack in Medina quarter near south Mogadishu's closed airport.

They said party supporter Mohammad Miradine was killed on Friday night when gunmen attacked his south Mogadishu home.

In a statement on a radio station operated by Mr. Ato's faction, the party said the Friday shootings and other killings in the last month had been carried out by Aidede supporters.

The party vowed to take revenge against a rival USC-SNA wing led by Mr. Aidede, a 34-year-old former U.S. soldier who succeeded his father Mohammad Farah Aidede when he died in Mogadishu on Aug. 1.

There was no immediate comment from officials loyal to Mr. Aidede.

Doctors at a south Mogadishu hospital said on Saturday two other people were killed and a former official in the Aidede "government" was wounded by gunmen in the city on Friday night. Some Mogadishu residents believe Mr. Ato's supporters assassinated Hussein Aidede's 62-year-old father and loyalists are taking revenge in line with a centuries-old tradition of vendettas.

## Lese majeste case deferred until Thursday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The State Security Court on Saturday deferred the trial of two journalists on lese majeste charges until a later date after one of the accused failed to appear in court.

The court, presided over by Judge Youssef Faouri, set Oct. 10 for the hearing, where Nahed Hattar and Abdullah Abu Rouman are expected to be formally charged.

Mr. Hattar, who surrendered to the authorities on Thursday after several weeks in hiding, was produced in court, but Mr. Abu Rouman was not present when the judge called the case, and hence the postponement.

Prosecutor Ahmad Al-Horan meanwhile met with defence lawyers Faisal Al-Batayneh, Zayed Al-

Rawabdeh and Sultan Hattar.

Legal sources said that while six charges were expected to be pressed against Mr. Hattar and Mr. Abu Rouman, it was decided that the two would face one charge each at the State Security Court.

Mr. Hattar faces the charge of "propagating material that slandered the dignity of His Majesty the King and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan" and Mr. Abu Rouman will be charged with "vocal slander."

Other charges will be referred to regular courts. These charges include "propagating material that harms national unity and relations between Jordan and Palestine, sows sectarianism and ethnicism, instigates violence, terror and hatred, and undermined national unity."

The charges against Mr. Hattar and Mr. Abu Rouman stem from articles they allegedly wrote during and after the unrest in the south in mid-August following a government decision to lift direct subsidies on wheat and animal feed and replace the subsidy system with direct cash compensation for all Jordanians.

If convicted they could face imprisonment up to three years. Mr. Hattar, a columnist for the weekly Shihan, evaded arrest and went into hiding shortly after police raided an office he and Mr. Abu Rouman maintained in Amman ahead of the planned launching of a weekly tabloid (the authorities have turned down the application for a licence for the weekly, and Mr. Hattar was reported to be planning a legal challenge to the

refusal in a court of law).

Documents seized by police during the raid included originals of articles that are believed to be the basis for the lese majeste charges.

The articles, according to reports, criticised the authorities for their decision to increase the price of bread and rechannel subsidies in the form of direct cash compensation to Jordanians.

Mr. Hattar continued to write his weekly column in Shihan from his hiding place. He said three weeks ago that he was willing to surrender to the authorities in return for guarantees that he would not be "tortured" in detention.

The government has repeatedly denied that detainees were tortured.

The journalist subsequently

## Strife overshadows Bosnia's presidency meeting

SARAJEVO (AP) — The inaugural meeting of Bosnia's joint presidency was delayed Saturday by sharp Serb-Muslim differences and Serbs' fears about the safety of their representative in the heart of Sarajevo.

Momcilo Krajisnik, the Serb member of Bosnia's newly-elected presidential troika, would not attend the meeting, international officials said after meeting with him in the Serb stronghold of Pale. An informal meeting of the other two members got underway without him, they said.

Mr. Krajisnik considered Saturday's meeting "tentative," according to the Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA. He said he was worried about his security in the Bosnian capital, and concerned that the text of the oath of office might be unacceptable to the Serb side.

The 42-member house of representatives, comprised

of legislators from the Serb sub-state and the federation joining Muslims and Croats, was also to have convened Saturday. But the 14 Bosnian Serbs in the newly elected body also stayed away.

The NATO-led peace force was putting strict security measures in place. Captain Fabrizio Biancone, spokesman for the Italian brigade providing security for the sessions Saturday, said about 300 men — including anti-sniper teams — and 50 combat vehicles had been mobilized.

In Sarajevo on Saturday, Colum Murphy, a spokesman for the international peace administrators, said chances that the three co-presidents would actually meet Saturday were only "50-50," adding: "We would be greatly disappointed if they did not."

Mr. Krajisnik had expressed reservations about attending the meeting on

Friday, when he denounced a deal between Muslim co-president Alija Izetbegovic and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic that establishes diplomatic relations.

He said Mr. Izetbegovic, chairman of the presidency, had overstepped his rights by trying to represent the whole country at the meeting with Mr. Milosevic on Thursday in Paris.

If Mr. Izetbegovic continues to speak for the whole of Bosnia, Mr. Krajisnik told SRNA. "I won't continue working in the presidency," Friday's recognition agreement effectively put to rest the Bosnian Serb dream of splitting Bosnia to join a "greater Serbia."

Michael Steiner, a senior international mediator, travelled to Pale Saturday to meet with Mr. Krajisnik — apparently trying to ensure that he would appear.

The attempts at persuasion failed, and the meeting got underway Saturday afternoon without Mr. Krajisnik.

Duncan Bullivant, a spokesman for top peace mediator Carl Bildt, said the Serbs cited security and other concerns for staying away.

The Bosnian presidency, comprising Mr. Izetbegovic, Mr. Krajisnik and Croat Kresimir Zubak, met informally Monday for the first time since being elected Sept. 14. Their inauguration had been slated for Saturday afternoon in Sarajevo's national theatre.

Mr. Krajisnik complained Friday that Mr. Izetbegovic had "not kept his word," given at the first meeting. "Then, he explained he was going on a private visit (to Paris) and that he'll talk about the arrangements from his previous mandate."

## Stephanie of Monaco granted divorce

MONACO (R) — A Monaco court Friday ended the marriage of Princess Stephanie to her ex-bodyguard husband Daniel Ducruet after he was photographed in a sex romp with a Belgian stripper, a palace spokesman said. Princess Stephanie, 31, the daughter of Prince Rainier and the late actress Grace Kelly, filed for divorce in mid-September after Italian and French magazines printed pictures of Mr. Ducruet cavorting with "Miss Topless Belgium," Filip Houteman, at a French Riviera villa.

SAN DIEGO, California (R) — One U.S. Navy seaman just got good news and bad news. The bad? He's sailing for the Gulf next week. The good? He's \$22 million richer. The California State Lottery office announced that the unidentified sailor, who is 20 years old and single, was the only person with a winning ticket for this week's drawing. After taxes, he will receive \$792,000 every year for 20 years, the lottery office said. Navy spokesman Jim Harbig said the sailor, assigned to the frigate Reid, is scheduled to sail for Saudi Arabia on Oct. 11 for six months as part of the U.S. build-up in the Gulf region.

Sailor holds \$22 million lotto ticket

Spanish prison service buys 1.7 million condoms

U.S. ring cut owners in car thefts — police

TRENTON, N.J. (R) — New Jersey Police broke up a ring that stole cars with the owners' permission, who not only collected on their insurance but got part of the profit when the cars were sold, officials said. The gang was nabbed after state police went undercover and pretended they wanted to buy the stolen cars to break them up for parts. State Attorney General Peter Verniero said.

Denmark opens new offensive against warring bikers

COPENHAGEN (R) — Denmark's government launched an offensive against warring motorcycle gangs, presenting parliament with rush legislation barring gang members from setting up attack-prone bases in residential areas. Bikers from rival Bandidos and Hell's Angels gangs have used guns, bombs, grenades and anti-tank missiles in a bloody turf war spreading through the Nordic region. Fears have grown that bystanders, especially children, could be hurt in the attacks. Justice Minister Bjoern Westh has pledged that the bill, announced by Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, will be in force in time to eject Hell's Angels from a site in Copenhagen's Amager district before local children begin school holidays.